THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • DECEMBER 26, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 46 • LATE CITY EDITION

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BAN ON WOMEN USING SMART PHONES IN RAJ DIST WITHDRAWN

Village elders in Rajasthan's Jalore district have withdrawn the ban imposed on women using smartphones after facing strident opposition

BAN WAS MISUNDERSTOOD, SAY VILLAGERS

A meeting of the panchas (village elders) was convened on Thursday in Gazipur village, where they unanimously decided to withdraw the ban, saying the decision kept children in mind, but it was "misunderstood". Earlier, on December 21, the panchas had banned daughters and daughters-in-law of 15 villages from using smartphones, starting Jan 26

'BAN TO CURB CHILDREN HOOKED TO PHONES'

- A member of the panchas, Natharam Chaudhary, explained that the decision of December 21 was taken after numerous complaints from women that their children used to borrow their phones after school
- Chaudhary said kids spend the entire day watching videos, which has adverse effects on their brain; the ban was taken to curb this habit

Dec 21

WAS WHEN THE VILLAGE PANCHAS ANNOUNCED THE FIAT

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

The container truck and the sleeper coach engulfed in flames following the collision near Chitradurga on Thursday morning | PTI

6 CHARRED TO DEATH AS TRUCK RAMS SLEEPER COACH ON NH-48

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Chitradurga

SIX people were charred to death after a truck collided with a sleeper bus, resulting in a fire which engulfed both vehicles, on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway 48 near Gorlathu Cross, in Hiriyur taluk of Chitradurga district, around 2am Thursday. The container truck jumped the divider and rammed the private bus, which was heading from Bengaluru to Gokarna via Shivamogga.

Five passengers of the bus and the truck driver, identified as Kuldeep Yadav from Haryana, perished in the blaze, while 28 passengers who suffered injuries are under treatment at government hospitals in Hiriyur, Sira, Tumakuru and a private hospital in Sira. The condition of three patients is said to be serious and they were shifted to Bengaluru for treatment.

The deceased were identified as Bindu (8L); Bindu's daughter Greya (5 yrs, no seat); Manasa (2L); Navya (11L) and Rashmi Mahale (11U).

Eyewitnesses said the non-AC sleeper coach was near Javangondanahalli when the container truck coming from the opposite direction crossed the divider and hit the bus. Both the container truck and bus caught fire due to the collusion.

Police and fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot but the vehicles were burnt before they could reach the spot. The charred bodies were lifted out of the bus with the help of SDRF and fire brigade. **P6**

PM ANNOUNCES ₹2L, CM ₹5L FOR VICTIMS' KIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condoled the loss of lives in the accident. While the PM announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured, the CM announced Rs 5 lakh for the victims' families and Rs 50,000 for the injured | **P6**

Political reset in B'desh as Tarique back in Dhaka

Ex-PM Khaleda Zia's son calls for building an inclusive Bangladesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID unrest and chaos in Bangladesh following the murder of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman returned to Dhaka on Thursday after 17 years in self-exile.

The dramatic return of Rahman, the acting chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), is expected to change the dynamics of the February 12 elections with a possible contest between the BNP and its former ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

With the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government barring ousted PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League from contesting elections, BNP is said to be the front-runner.

Hasina had banned the Jamaat but Yunus lifted it due to pressure from radicals. The Jamaat reportedly enjoys the support of student outfits that led the protests to remove Hasina from power.

Shortly after landing at the Hazrat Shahjalal International airport, Rahman stood barefoot on Bangladeshi soil in a symbolic gesture to mark his return to the country's politics.

Articulating his plans to build an "inclusive Bangladesh", he said: "We want to build a safe Bangladesh... no matter who a woman, man, or child is, they should be able to leave their homes safely and return safely."

Rahman, 60, had been living in London since 2008. He was leading the BNP since 2018 following Zia's ill health.

Urging people to maintain peace and stability, he said: "We have people from the hills and the plains in this country Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians."

Invoking Martin Luther King's famous speech "I have a dream", he said, "I have a plan," adding he will take everyone on board to rebuild the nation.

Notably, during his address, Rahman didn't make any direct reference to India though he mentioned the birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

India liberated Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) from Pakistan's brutal rule in 1971. **P11**

BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman waves to his supporters in Dhaka | PTI

> **This country belongs to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians** — Tarique Rahman

ANOTHER HINDU MAN LYNCHED IN B'DESH

Days after factory worker Dipu Chandra Das was lynched by a mob, another Hindu man identified as Amrit Mondal was beaten to death. Local reports quoting police claimed he was an extortionist

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EXPRESS READ

Vendor dies in cylinder blast near Mys palace

Mysuru: A helium cylinder used by a balloon vendor exploded near the Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysuru Palace on Thursday night, killing the vendor and injuring four others. The incident occurred around 8.30pm, while thousands had gathered at the premises to enjoy the flower show | **P5**

Nat'l meet of chief secys begins today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a three-day national conference of chief secretaries in New Delhi from Friday to Sunday, bringing together senior bureaucrats from states, Union Territories and key Union ministries for discussions on governance and policy implementation | **P9**

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
46 PAGES, INCLUDING 32 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

UNNAO RAPE

Plea in SC against Sengar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A Supreme Court petition has challenged the Delhi High Court's decision to suspend expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar's life sentence in the 2017 Unnao rape case.

Advocates Anjale Patel and Pooja Shilpkar argued that the HC erred by ignoring the trial court's observation that Sengar should remain imprisoned for life. They contended that the bail disregards his "serious criminal antecedents" and involvement in heinous crimes, including orchestrating the victim's father's murder while in custody.

Kuldeep Sengar

On December 23, the high court had suspended Sengar's sentence, imposed in December 2019, noting that he had served over seven years.

However, Sengar will remain in jail as he is serving 10 years for the custodial death case in the same matter.

Top Maoist Uikey, with over ₹1 crore bounty, eliminated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

IN a decisive blow to Maoist insurgency, security forces eliminated four persons, including top CPI (Maoist) central committee member Ganesh Uikey, during an encounter in Kandhamal district's Chakapada on Thursday. The 69-year-old commander, carrying a bounty of ₹1.1 crore, headed Maoist operations across Odisha.

Ganesh Uikey

The operation in Rambha forest range near the Kandhamal-Ganjam border involved 20 Special Operations Group (SOG) units, two CRPF battalions, and BSF personnel. "Multiple exchanges of fire occurred early morning. Four Maoists were neutralised, including two women, all in uniform," said ADG (Anti-Naxal Operations) Sanjeeb Panda.

Uikey, originally from Telangana's Nalgonda district, was among India's most wanted insurgents, operating under aliases including Rupa, Rajesh Tiwari, and Chamru. He carried combined rewards of ₹2 crore across four states and orchestrated deadly attacks across eastern and central regions of the country.

The other slain cadres carried rewards of ₹1.65 lakh each.

Security forces recovered two INSAS rifles and one .303 rifle from the site.

This follows Wednesday's encounter in Gumma forest that killed two more Maoists, bringing the 24-hour toll to six.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it "a significant milestone towards Naxal-free Bharat," reaffirming the government's commitment to eliminate Naxalism by March 31, 2026.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi praised the forces' dedication, saying, "Odisha's development and public safety remain our top priorities."

Pentagon report on India axis malicious: China

MILITARY BASE IN PAK?

Defence ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang, too, denounced the Pentagon report, which also flagged enhanced ties between China and Pakistan, adding Beijing "likely also considered" setting up a base in Pakistan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

CHINA on Thursday denounced a Pentagon report that accused Beijing of leveraging reduced tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India to stabilise bilateral relations and prevent a deeper strategic alignment between New Delhi and Washington.

"The Pentagon's report distorts China's defence policy, sows discord, and aims at finding a pretext for the US to maintain its military supremacy," foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian caustically told the media in Beijing, when asked about the US Department of Defense's annual report to Congress on China.

Lin said Beijing views and handles its relations with New Delhi from a strategic height and a long-term perspective. "We stand ready to strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust, promote cooperation, and properly handle differences with India, and advance a sound and stable bilateral relationship," Lin said.

As for the LAC, Lin said, "the boundary question is a matter between China and India, and the current border situation between the two countries is generally stable with smooth communication channels."

The US releases such reports year after year, grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang told a separate media briefing. He described it as a maliciously misinterpreted report that is full of erroneous understanding.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Christmas service at the Cathedral Church of the Redemption in New Delhi on Thursday. "May Christmas bring renewed hope, warmth and a shared commitment to kindness," Modi later posted on X | PTI

GBA sets ball rolling for GIS-based master plan

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has invited global tenders from consulting agencies for preparation of a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based master plan for the Greater Bengaluru Local Planning Area.

Speaking to TNIE, the GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the plan will include defining what a commercial area is, what residential areas are, and others.

A senior official in the GBA said that the plan will include acquiring land on the outskirts for some development projects and development of roads, urban forest, and water supply, as the city population is growing exponentially.

Tender eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms and conditions are available from the website of the e-procurement department (http//www/kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The pre-bid meeting will be held on January 9, 2026, at the office of the Chief Town Planner, Greater Bengaluru Authority, NR Square in Hudson Circle, and the last date for the submission of the bid is January 10.

V Ravichandar, Civic Evangelist, said the GBA is the local planning authority and they are the right people to initiate the master plan. "Under the 74th Amendment, the individual corporation also has to submit their own plans, which become part of the overall plan, which gets meshed with the water supply, electricity, and other agencies that are part of the GBA. **P2**

Lantana shrubs being processed at Bandipur Tiger Reserve | UDAYASHANKAR S

BRT initiative: Turning invasive lantana into fuel

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

OFFICIALS of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) have begun converting lantana into fuel briquettes, transforming an environmental menace into a potential source of clean energy and livelihood for communities living on the fringes of the sanctuary.

Lantana, the invasive shrub, disrupts the native forest ecosystem by wiping out indigenous grass species and suppressing tree regeneration, ultimately reducing the capacity of forests to support wildlife. The survival of forests depends on the eradication of lantana to allow native vegetation and food chains to recover.

Even after their removal, the invasive shrubs regenerate if left untreated. To prevent this, BTR has adopted a process of pulverising the woody biomass and converting it into high-density fuel briquettes. The briquettes can be used as an alternative to conventional firewood, offering a renewable energy source.

"Lantana that is merely cleared has a high chance of regeneration. By pulverising and briquetting it, we are ensuring complete utilisation of the invasive weed," said Prabhakaran, field director, BTR.

"This is done on a trial basis. We are assessing its economic viability. If it works, eco-development committees and forest-fringe communities will be involved in the initiative," he said.

Lantana shrubs removed from around 100 acres of forest in the Bandipur and GS Betta ranges have been processed. NGOs, CSR-supported agencies and local partners have cleared lantana from nearly 35 acres of the 100-acre forest. **P7**

KASHMIRI SHAWL VENDOR ASSAULTED IN UTTARAKHAND

A Kashmiri shawl vendor was allegedly assaulted, robbed, and threatened by a group of Bajrang Dal activists in Uttarakhand, the J&K Students Association said | **P10**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Friday: 26.12.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Dakhsinayana
• Ritu: Himanth • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Shashti 9.55 am
• Nakshatra: Purvabhadra 5.44 am • Moon in Meena rashi • Rahukaala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
• Gulikakala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Yamaganda: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

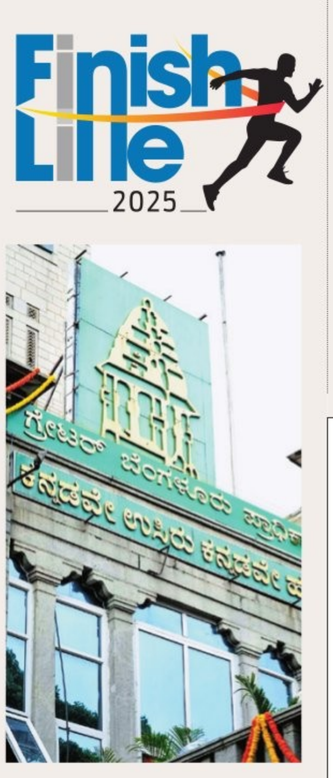
WEATHER
MIN 15°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Broken clouds

Sunrise 06.39 am
Sunset 06.01 pm
Moonrise 11.11 am
Moonset 11.24 pm

CIVIC

Will new corporations, khata conversion be a game changer?

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@Bengaluru



WITH the formation of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Bengaluru became the second city after New Delhi to have multiple city corporations.

Now there are five municipal corporations in Bengaluru to tackle 'administrative' challenges and 'pressure', as put forth by the government. It will be interesting to see in 2026, if this multiple corporation model works or falters like in Delhi, which went back to the original single corporation model.

Many former mayors, sitting corporators and the opposition BJP-JDS say the government broke up BBMP only to delay elections to the local body. On December 11, the GBA marked 100 days of its existence. There is, however, no clear picture on when the local body elections, due since September 2020, will be held.

Corporation commissioners undertake daily walks in the morning, hold phone-in programmes to send out a message that the new model of decentralisation is working, but issues of deviation, construction of unauthorised floors, and encroachments remain unaddressed. Further, as a classic example of the GBA's preferential treatment of clearing encroachments, the civic body handpicked 160 slum homes in a single day, but is still gathering the guts to take action against big sharks.

Though the conversion of B-khata to A-khata was hailed as a master stroke to help owners get loans easily and other benefits, the move was seen as a money-making channel for the cash-strapped government, which is burdened with the five guarantees.

The civic body managed to mop up a record property tax collection of Rs 4,930cr as against the set target of Rs 5,210cr. The new target for 2025-2026 is Rs 5,712cr, but the civic body is lagging behind due to the split in the corporation.

In line with the apex court order, the GBA is relocating stray dogs from institutions like schools, hospitals, religious places, playgrounds, bus stands and depots. The move has been severely criticised by animal lovers who term the move as illogical.

Another landmark development in Bengaluru was the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) dumping an auto-tipper filled with waste in front of litterbugs' homes as a retaliatory mechanism for dumping garbage on street corners, despite the auto being sent to doorsteps to collect waste. The move was opposed by the BJP, but BSWML defended its move, saying this was the last option after measures like fixing black spot penalties.

The civic agency also planned to launch an initiative like rewarding the public with Rs 250 for recording litterbugs in the act, but this was aborted after the Deputy Chief Minister intervened.

The agency is also planning to invite tenders to run its 100 Dry Waste Collection Units, and CEO Karee Gowda said waste pickers, recyclers and self-help groups will also be given this opportunity. The agency is also opening up Kasa Kiosks, where residents can hand over segregated waste in case they miss the regular waste collection cycle.

Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board issued warnings to owners with unauthorised connections and came up with the 'Blue Force', a task force armed with equipment to detect illegal water connections. Since starting operations in November, the force has conducted 4,000 inspections and cut services.

In May, the water board launched the Sanchari Cauvery initiative to tackle the tanker mafia in Bengaluru outskirts. Under the initiative, the board pressed for fixed rates for tankers: Rs 660 for 4,000 litres, Rs 740 for 6,000 litres and Rs 1,290 for 12,000 litres.

GBA, 5 corporations seminal reform event of 2025

ANY look back at 2025 has to start with a moment of triumph after years of waiting in hope, which led to a horrendous, avoidable tragedy. The KSCA stampede that led to 11 lost lives leads us to pause and honour their memory by ensuring that such an unfortunate event does not ever happen again. It marred what should have been a defining celebratory event of 2025, an IPL triumph after 18 years for Team Bengaluru.

The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and 5 corporations, was a seminal reform event of 2025. Since the 74th constitutional amendment, it is the first mega city governance and administration Act in the country apart from the short-lived multi-corporation experiment in Delhi. It promises a better city, but it needs to live up to the hype around it through focus on execution.

This is a good time to visit the genesis of this change and the expectations from it.

The BBMP Restructuring Committee and the subsequently named Brand Bengaluru Committee (disclosure: this author is a member) had been tasked for over seven years with suggesting ways and means to improve the quality of life in Bengaluru for all citizens. It was clear that a single BBMP and multiple parastatals like BWSSB, BESCOM, BDA, BMTC, BMRCL, Police, etc, working at cross purposes were not tenable for a 14 million resident and growing city spread over 721 sq kms with rampant growth beyond its borders.

V RAVICHANDAR
Civic Evangelist and recently appointed Mayor (Public Spaces)

The solution set suggested was deep decentralization through five corporations and their ward committees, with appropriate centralization at the apex level of the Corporations and the parastatals. The GBA is akin to a music conductor. Sans it, we end up with noise. It is early days to evaluate its performance, but some signs through fixing of infrastructure and more locally accessible officials augur hope. The corporation elections, likely in early 2026, should give a fillip to the decentralization experiment.

The arts and culture scene, too, has made rapid strides in 2025. While traditional institutions like Ranga Shankara, Jagriti, BIC, Bengaluru Science Gallery, IME, IIWC, MAP, PCPA, NGMA, Courtyard, Shoonya, Courtyard Koota, etc., continued to build on their strengths, 2025 saw the renovation and renewal of institutions like Sabha, the Venkatappa Art Gallery, Indian Heritage Academy, and Alliance Francaise. The variety of choices through these and other institutions gave Bengalureans choices that were sorely lacking in the past. They were also an oasis of community gatherings in an increasingly concrete city.

Newer public spaces like Freedom Park came to life with the 14th edition of Bangalore Literature Festival. Its environs, along with multiple other venues, will spring to life over 10 days in mid-January 2026 during the BLR Hubba. That's a New Year gift that's worth looking forward to!

Missed the garbage truck? Head over to nearby Kasa Kiosks

BSWML plans to set up 70 garbage kiosks aiming to curb black spots in the city

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

KASA Kiosks have begun operating at a few locations in the city, where individuals who miss the regular door-to-door garbage collection cycle can drop off their trash.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) was planning to set up around 70 Kasa Kiosks (garbage kiosks), majorly aimed at curbing the black spots in the city.

As of now, the kiosks have been set up at Kadirenahalli, Pragathipura and Sarabandepalya, and officials from the BSWML said that works are on and soon kiosks would be set up across the city at places where the garbage collection is poor.

While citizens welcomed the Kasa Kiosk initiative, they expressed their concerns that the kiosks are manned and that they keep functioning in the future too.

A Kasa Kiosk set up by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited in Pragathipura

"It is very common for people, especially in homes where both the husband and wife are working, to miss handing over the garbage when the corporation vehicle comes to their doorsteps every day. For multiple reasons, including the smell from the garbage, for the fear of the trash being spilled all over next to their homes, by cats, dogs and rats, people always prefer to dispose of it at places convenient for them, which eventually becomes a black spot in the area", said Chandru, a resident of Kadirenahalli.

He said that the idea of the kiosks is a welcome move, as responsible citizens would head out to the nearest kiosk to hand over their garbage.

Officials from the BSWML maintained that the kiosks will operate in two-shifts and based on the composition of the area, the timing of each varies. The kiosks at Pragathipura and Sarabandepalya will be open from 5 am to 8 am and from 12 pm to 3 pm. At Kadirenahalli, it will accept garbage from 5.30 am to 9 am and 5 pm to 9 pm. The kiosks will accept only segregated wastes and have places four coloured bins--green, red, blue and yellow for the collection.

Citizens urged BSWML that they give enough publicity on the kasa kiosks, share their location and create awareness that they can hand over their trash here and stop littering.

Central City Corpn appeals to citizens to adopt strays

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Central City Corporation (BCCC) has appealed to the public to adopt stray dogs within its limits. The BCCC, in a release, stated that as part of the welfare and humane management of community (street) dogs within its limits, members of the public, organisations, residents' welfare associations (RWAs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are requested to come forward to adopt street dogs.

A veterinarian from BCCC stated that there are 30,000 street dogs within these limits, and based on the apex court order, 800 dogs were identified for relocation from schools, colleges, hospitals, hostels, playgrounds, bus stops, depots, parks and other public places.

The corporation is now speeding up with the animal shelter at S Bingipura in Bengaluru South City Corporation limits. "There is a place, and both Central City Corporation and South City Corporation are building shelters for stray dogs; however, Central City Corporation has come forward with an appeal for adoption," said an official.

The official added that many people are looking to purchase breed dogs, and instead they can adopt street dogs. "Dogs given for adoption will undergo a health check-up, vaccination and sterilization."

For more information, contact

Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation, Room No. 406-A, 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, GBA Headquarters, NR Chowk

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Special prayers being offered to celebrate Christmas at St Mark's Cathedral on MG Road on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

GIS-based master plan a good move, says expert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE GBA, as a local planning authority, is supposed to synthesize the plans of the multiple corporations, while they can facilitate the exercise through GIS. Finally, the exercises have to be decentralized at the corporation level. Ultimately, it has to be aggregated at the GBA level with other parastatal agencies," Ravichandar said.

"This is definitely a good move, but at the same time it should be built as a rolling plan. It has to be updated every five years, unlike the existing one which remains static," he added.

At present, only Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is the planning authority, which has the power to exercise outside the GBA limits, which is looking into layout plans and revenue generation for the government, but the GBA needs a plan, and hence the government has come out with a notification for a comprehensive plan for 709 sq km, said civic experts.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

26th December: Unpacking Boxing Day Historically, wealthy households gave boxes of food or money to servants, tradespeople and those in need the day after Christmas -- hence the name Boxing Day. This one comes with two lunar conjunctions: The moon meets Saturn first, urging us to honor those who've supported us, then joins Neptune, tinting the evening with dreamlight. A day that begins with order ends in wonder.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Your sense of fun is going strong, and you'll be inclined to say yes to friends intent on roping you into their games and schemes. Going along for the ride will definitely have its perks!

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
People are curious about you. You'll share, knowing they're unlikely to understand. If they ask why you do what you do or why you did what you did, just shrug lightly. "Because I felt like it" is a complete philosophy.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
You like to keep your emotional weather private, but today you could go either way. You're sensitive, but you choose when to show it. Process feelings on your own whim. It's really OK to be unpredictable in this and other small, delightful ways.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Follow your body's response to requests of you. If your chest tightens or you feel heavy, don't go. If you feel curious, floaty, or lightly mischievous, go. No rationalizing. No "I should." Only: How does this feel?

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
You're reliable, impressive and talented at solving problems. Do avoid letting anyone come to you (SET ITAL) every time (END ITAL) with the same problem. If you always fix things for them, they never learn, and you become their default crisis manager.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Mismatched intensity feels frustrating and has potential to discourage. But when you're with people who can meet your hustle, your warmth and your creativity, the whole scene brightens. You get things done together and the teamwork creates a sense of belonging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Your creative energy is potent today. Don't let it stay abstract; give it form. What you express now will come to have a life of its own and will spark something in the people who receive it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Too much negotiating hurts a relationship because the longer a negotiation goes on, the more likely you are to accidentally hurt someone's ego by valuing or devaluing the wrong thing. Make a deal or don't make a deal, but keep it short!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Suffering doesn't mean you're doing life wrong. Sometimes it means life is asking too much of you. You're one person doing the work of many. Of course you're going to feel overextended. Your frustration about that is data.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You have fans. The interest and admiration will be an energy boost. And don't worry, you don't have to perform for anyone. Simply do what comes naturally and make yourself comfortable... because your comfort makes everyone comfortable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
In the world of entertainment, it's a sin to bore the audience. In polite society, it's the norm. You're in the mood to deliver an experience to people, and it's OK if you go a bit out of the expected for the sake of capturing and holding their attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Wondering if someone is good for you? Consider that "good for you" doesn't always feel fun in the moment. Also, your needs are changing so rapidly now, the answer might be different in a few days. Return to the question next week.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

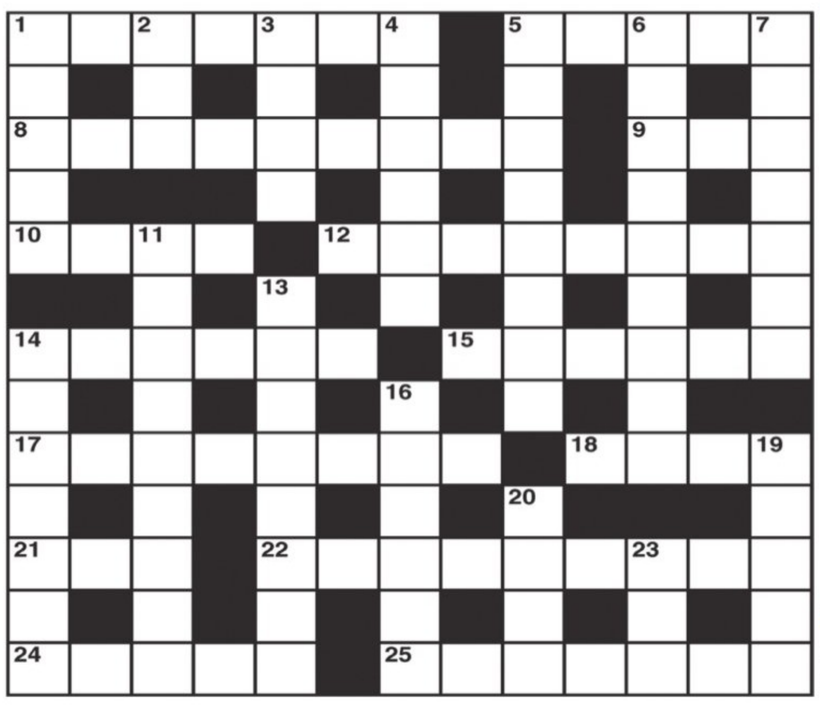
			1		9	5	4	6
	1	4	7				2	
		8				9		
	5	9		2				4
2		3	9		8	1		5
6				4		2	8	
		2				4		
	3				7	8	9	
7	8	5	2		4			

7	4	5	2	8	6	3	9	1
3	2	9	1	5	7	6	8	4
1	8	6	9	3	4	2	7	5
6	5	2	4	1	8	7	3	9
8	7	1	3	2	9	5	4	6
9	3	4	7	6	5	8	1	2
5	9	3	6	7	1	4	2	8
2	1	8	5	4	3	9	6	7
4	6	7	8	9	2	1	5	3

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Stay second (7)
5 Mohammedan lawyer in plain clothes (5)
8 Ivan's rule was terrible in general (9)
9 Scoff at a point initially (3)
10 Dead slow (4)
12 It's not right having no more surplus (4,4)
14 Risk not completing part of the church (6)
15 Confused brides refuse (6)
17 Pay no regard to a deduction (8)
18 It's used in casting part of a film (4)
21 Bill's partner in dalliance? (3)
22 He ends up in the relay race or tug-of-war (6,3)
24 Turner displayed in La Scala theatre (5)
25 Take the chair (3,4)

DOWN

1 Frame of mind? (5)
2 Soft greeting from a character in Greece (3)
3 Start being frank (4)
4 Pitched sets do turn out unexpectedly (6)
5 A train driver (8)
6 Give away lines? (4,5)
7 Limits in rents, perhaps (7)
11 Carriage entrance (9)
13 A touch of exaltation (8)
14 I'd colic, ruptured appendix? (7)
16 They will be less than the normal fare (6)
19 A brief note with direction for making fabric (5)
20 Apprentice dismissed for being a boor (4)
23 Low state of mind on loss of daughter (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Grasping, 5 Asia, 9 Atoll, 10 Torrent, 11 Cabinet-maker, 13 Ensign, 14 Stroll, 17 Narrow escape, 20 Inmates, 21 Inept, 22 Eros, 23 Stands by.

Down: 1 Goat, 2 Avowals, 3 Polling booth, 4 Nether, 6 Sleek, 7 After all, 8 Prompt action, 12 Meantime, 15 Orpheus, 16 Tea set, 18 Romeo, 19 Stay.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RFMOU

CUJIE

LTIVEY

RFSIAA

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SADLY STRUM TURNIP ENTICE
Answer: The ghost didn't get along well with others because he was — MEAN-SPIRITED

Marikamba Temple fair, the biggest in Uttara Kannada district, will be held between February 24 and March 4, 2026. The temple authorities are expecting lakhs of devotees and are accordingly gearing up for the event considering that the Kumta-Sirsi Road is now opened for motorists

CRIME

Systemic failures, crime, controversy rock Home Dept

RAKSHITH GOWDA
@ Bengaluru

2025 proved deeply turbulent for Karnataka's Home Department, which came under sustained scrutiny as cases involving police and prison officials, ranging from corruption and criminality to systemic lapses, dominated public discourse.

One of the most shocking episodes was the stampede at M Chinnaswamy Stadium during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's victory celebrations, which claimed 11 lives and left several injured. The tragedy drew nationwide attention to glaring failures in crowd management during large public events. The state government suspended five police personnel, including the then Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda. This was the first time in the state's history that a commissioner was suspended.

Another case that shook the state was the alleged mass burial in Dharmasthala mid-year. A former sanitation worker claimed that he was forced to bury hundreds of bodies — mostly of women and minors, who were allegedly raped and murdered. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed to probe this case. Partial human skeletal remains were found in two of the 17 sites excavated in Dharmasthala. However, the complainant was later arrested on charges of perjury.

In January, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah declared Karnataka a Naxal-free state following the surrender of six Naxalites. With this, the Anti-Naxal Force was dismantled.

The year also saw politically sensitive cases. Former Hassan Lok Sabha MP Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, was sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life for raping a domestic worker. BJP MLA and former minister Byrathi Basavaraj was named accused No 5 in the rowdy-sheeter Biklu Shiva murder case in Bengaluru.

Home Minister G Parameshwara drew criticism for his remarks over a molestation incident in Bengaluru. He, however, issued an apology, stating that his statements had been misunderstood.

Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shivamogga districts reported many communal incidents. A mob lynched ragpicker Ashraf in Mangaluru in April. Bajrang Dal activist Suhas Shetty was murdered on May 1. Sand transporter Abdul Rahiman was killed on May 27. All this prompted the government to set up a Special Action Force (SAF).

The state witnessed several brutal murder cases during the year. In one chilling case, a man allegedly beheaded his 26-year-old wife in Bengaluru Rural district and took her severed head on a scooter to a police station. In another case, a youth from Hassan murdered his friend and uploaded a video of the crime on social media. Mysuru saw a daylight murder near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds, while Mumbai Police busted an illegal drug manufacturing unit operating without the knowledge of Mysuru police.

Sensational and filmy-style robberies made headlines. Three masked men armed with country-made pistols robbed over Rs 1 crore in cash and 20 kg gold ornaments worth around Rs 20 crore from an SBI branch in Vijayapura. A bank manager and his two accomplices were arrested in connection with the theft of gold and cash worth Rs 53.3 crore from Canara Bank's Managuli branch. In another case, a Rs 7.11-crore daylight heist from a CMS cash van stunned the state, especially after a police constable from Govindapura police station in Bengaluru was arrested for allegedly masterminding the crime.

Police misconduct remained a recurring theme. A constable from Kolar and seven others were arrested for kidnapping and extorting Rs 8.80 lakh from a BPO employee in Bengaluru. Eleven police personnel, including an inspector, were suspended for allegedly shielding drug peddlers. A constable attached to the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner's office was also suspended for allegedly stealing Rs 11 lakh from a seized vehicle linked to a cybercrime case.

The Prison Department drew sharp criticism after videos of inmates, including a serial rapist and a suspected ISIS operative, using mobile phones surfaced in Bengaluru Central Prison. Similar incidents were reported from other prisons in the state. Several warders were arrested for allegedly supplying drugs and mobile phones, prompting the home minister to appoint an IPS officer as chief prison officer.

On the reforms front, the state introduced navy-blue peaked caps for constabulary personnel, replacing traditional slouch hats after decades. To strengthen justice delivery, 33 Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police stations were set up, while a dedicated Cyber Command Centre was established to tackle the surge in cybercrime.

Crime landscape in 2025: Signals, silences and systemic steps

GOPAL B HOSUR
Former IPS officer, Karnataka

GOOD governance begins not with grand visions or welfare announcements, but with the state's capacity to ensure public order, personal security, and confidence in the rule of law. Without a stable law-and order environment, economic growth falters, social trust erodes, and democratic institutions weaken. Crime is not merely a policing issue; it is a mirror reflecting the health of governance, institutional integrity, and political accountability.

The crime and law-and -order situation in Karnataka during 2025 deserves close scrutiny through a structured assessment of institutional response, political oversight, and systemic trends. High-profile crimes, administrative lapses, and instances of police complicity are not aberrations; they are stress signals in the governance ecosystem.

The crime narrative in 2025 was a cumulative stress test of governance, policing standards and institutional credibility. Crime control is inseparable from systemic reform.

The conviction of Prajwal Revanna marked a rare assertion of the rule of law over political privilege. It demonstrated that sustained investigation, prosecutorial rigour and judicial resolve can overcome entrenched power.

The government's decision to approach the SC in bail-related matters underscored the gravity of the case and the delicate balance articulated by the court between personal liberty and societal interest.

Public order failures were exposed by the stampede at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Crowd control is not a peripheral policing function—it is a specialised discipline requiring advanced risk mapping, command clarity and coordination. The tragedy illustrated the cost of treating public safety protocols as procedural formalities rather than enforceable standards.

Instances of police involvement in crime and corruption struck at the heart of institutional legitimacy. When internal vigilance is weak and external oversight diluted, deviance finds space. Zero tolerance, transparent inquiry and time-bound disciplinary action are essential, not merely to punish wrongdoing but to protect the integrity of the honest majority within the force.

The Rs 7.11 crore daylight robbery in Bengaluru and the SBI robbery in Vijayapura district reflected a dangerous confidence among criminal groups. These crimes exploited predictable security practices and intelligence gaps. They call for reforms in cash-handling protocols, surveillance integration and sharper coordination between banks and law enforcement—areas where technological capacity exists but institutional urgency is often lacking.

Correctional governance came under scrutiny with allegations of preferential treatment at Bengaluru Central Prison. The SC has emphasised that prisons must function under the principles of equality, dignity and accountability. When incarceration becomes stratified by influence, deterrence collapses and cynicism deepens. Prison reforms—covering surveillance, audits and grievance redressal—must move from committee reports to reality.

On a positive note, Karnataka Police's sustained drug operations demonstrated improved intelligence-led policing and interstate coordination. Yet, the SC has consistently warned that enforcement without rehabilitation is incomplete. Investment in de-addiction, counselling and community outreach must accompany seizures and arrests if long-term impact is to be achieved.

The Dharmasthala mass burial case revived unresolved questions of missing persons and historical crimes. Police need to be credited that they unearthed the conspiracy by the vested interests to malign an institution built over decades.Road accidents and suicides continued to claim more lives than conventional crimes, representing governance failures as much as personal tragedies.

There was significant surge in cybercrime, reflecting the broader national trend of digital vulnerabilities alongside rapid technology adoption.

Yet, it would be a serious error to conclude that Karnataka's challenges reflect an absence of policing capacity. The Karnataka Police remains a professional force with a strong institutional legacy, that operate under intense political scrutiny, legal constraints, and rapidly evolving forms of crime—from violent offences to cyber fraud. Where leadership has been firm and operational autonomy respected, outcomes have been better. The issue is not one of competence but of consistency—of clear direction, insulation from extraneous interference, and sustained investment in investigation, technology, and prosecution. The responsibility now lies with both political leadership and police command to translate this strength into measurable outcomes.

Let us hope for a more secure and safe Karnataka in 2026.

Newly-wed woman dies by suicide, her parents blame husband, his family

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 24-year-old MBA graduate, who got married last month, has died under mysterious circumstances at her husband's house in Mallasandra under Bagalagunte police station limits.

The woman, CK Aishwarya, hailed from Maddur in Mandya district. Her husband, Likith Simha, 27, a diploma holder, has been taken into police custody.

Aishwarya was found hanging from the ceiling fan. Aishwarya's parents have accused her husband and his family of having killed her and making it look like a suicide.

It is alleged that Aishwarya started facing harassment from the next day of her wedding. Her husband and mother-in-law are accused of telling her parents to take her back home. On Wednesday morning, Aishwarya's parents had come to Likith's house for mediation. Later, they returned to Maddur, after which Likith's brother called and informed them about Aishwarya's death.

Aishwarya's body was shifted to Victoria Hospital's mortuary for postmortem.

26-YEAR-OLD NEWLY-MARRIED WOMAN TRIES TO END LIFE

A 26-year-old newly married woman, who attempted to end her life, is battling for life in a hospital.

The victim has been identified as Ghanavai. She had married Suraj on October 29. Following a demand made by Suraj's parents, a wedding reception was held on Palace Grounds on November 23.

The couple then went to Sri Lanka for their honeymoon. They had planned a 10-day trip. However, they returned on Sunday within five days. It is suspected that the couple must have had a fight over some personal issue. Immediately after returning, Suraj's family asked her parents to take her back home. Upset, the woman attempted suicide by hanging on Wednesday afternoon.

The Ramamurthy Nagar police have registered a case.

DUSK COLOURS

People walk past Vidhana Soudha as the winter sky forms a colourful backdrop in Bengaluru on Thursday evening | VINOD KUMAR T

Woman stabs jobless alcoholic husband to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 28-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his wife in Varthur police limits on Thursday morning.

Frustrated over her husband's addiction to alcohol and harassment, the accused stabbed him to death at their house in Munnekolalu.The deceased has been identified as Rajiv Rajput of Assam. The accused, Rubina Kaur, has been taken into police custody. Rajiv married Kaur eight years ago and they have a child. Rajiv would loaf around with his friends and return home drunk daily. He used to harass Kaur.

On Wednesday night, he fought with her. When he started quarrelling with her on Thursday morning, Kaur allegedly stabbed him several times with a kitchen knife. Rajiv died on the spot.

EXPRESS READ

75 flights delayed at Bengaluru airport as fog plays foul on Christmas day

BENGALURU: Fog played foul on Christmas day at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), with flights being delayed at the airport. A spokesperson BIAL reported 75 flights to be delayed at the airport on Thursday morning, December 25. Of the 75 delayed flights, 40 were delayed departures and 35 were delayed arrivals. No cancellations were reported at the airport on Thursday morning. The approximate time frame for the discrepancies was 4 am to 11 am, beyond which services resumed to normal. IndiGo was the only major airline to post an update on social media, "Low visibility and fog over #Bangalore has impacted flight schedules. We're keeping a close watch on the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly," read the airline's post on X. **ENS**

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VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 2/2025

Online Applications are invited for 1 Post of Junior Translation Officer in Pay Level 6 and 2 Posts of Junior Secretariat Assistants in Pay Level 2. All Details are available in the Website of the Institute: **www.nia.nic.in** Applications are to be filled Online only in the Website of the Institute. **The Closing Date for Online Filling of Application is 06-02-2026.**

JP SHARMA
Date: 24-12-2025 **JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)**

XPRESS FOCUS

Philip Morris India Reinforces its Commitment Against Illicit Tobacco Trade with Intelligence-Led Action and Strategic Partnerships in 2025

As part of a nationwide effort to curb contraband cigarettes, an extensive intelligence-gathering exercise was conducted across more than 3,000 retail outlets spanning 10 states and over 500 market clusters. This initiative was complemented by targeted capacity-building support for more than 145 customs and tax officers, equipping them with practical skills to identify and intercept illicit cigarette trade effectively.

Illicit tobacco trade is a growing threat to India's economy and public health. In response, Philip Morris India Trading Private Limited (PM India) has intensified efforts to tackle this challenge by combining intelligence-driven action with strategic policy engagement. The organisation leveraged market intelligence to map contraband hotspots and assess the penetration of illicit cigarettes, while catalysing industry–government dialogue on transparency, enforcement, and global best practices. These efforts underscore PM India's commitment to safeguarding supply chain integrity and supporting national priorities in curbing the inflow of illegal cigarettes.

Euromonitor International reports that sales of illicit cigarettes remain high in India, driven largely by their affordability compared to legal cigarettes. These products evade taxation, while the legal industry continues to struggle under the burden of high tax rates. Based on estimates, Euromonitor International ranks India as the fourth-largest market globally for illicit cigarette consumption, after China, Brazil, and Pakistan. Recent public reports suggest that enforcement agencies have estimated seizures of smuggled cigarettes worth ₹600 crore during FY25, reflecting the growing scale of illicit tobacco trade. Additionally, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence data has highlighted the North-Eastern region as the largest epicentre of cigarette smuggling, accounting for one-third of total seizures due to porous borders. Maharashtra–Goa (20 per cent), Tamil Nadu (13 per cent), and West Bengal (9 per cent) further indicate the growing use of coastal and maritime routes for such smuggling.

As the Government of India strengthens enforcement machinery through the rollout of a track-and-trace mechanism, PM India remains committed to supporting this landmark reform by sharing global best practices and proven expertise. With operations across multiple markets worldwide, Philip Morris International (PMI) has voluntarily implemented advanced track-and-trace systems in over 140 markets. In regions such as the EU, the UK, Russia, Jordan, and the GCC, every pack is digitally tagged and monitored, supported by scalable, locally adapted frameworks developed in collaboration with national authorities. Additionally, PMI has consistently invested in technologies that protect supply chain integrity, delivering enhanced visibility, stronger compliance, and measurable reductions in illicit trade.

Navaneel Kar, Managing Director, Philip Morris India, said, "Illicit tobacco trade is not a new challenge, and neither is our commitment to addressing it. Our endeavour in India combines global expertise with local partnerships to strengthen enforcement, protect consumers, and support national priorities. This year, we engaged with over 50 key stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, DRI, GST, Police, and Customs, deepening collaboration through market intelligence, advanced track-and-trace systems, and cooperative frameworks to curb the inflow of illicit cigarettes. Combating this issue requires sustained, collective action, and we remain committed to working collaboratively with regulators, enforcement bodies, and civil society to build a transparent and compliant tobacco ecosystem for India."

With its global expertise and strong local commitment, the organisation champions innovation and collaboration to combat illicit tobacco trade in India. By combining technology-driven solutions with strategic partnerships and enforcement support, PMI remains focused on building a transparent, compliant, and secure tobacco ecosystem that protects consumers and strengthens national interests. Looking ahead, PM India continues to support government reforms, accelerate innovation in compliance, and partner with stakeholders to co-create future-ready frameworks that enhance transparency across the entire supply chain.

With the aim to ensure a clean Tungabhadra river, a padayatra is being launched from Kishkindha to Mantralaya on December 27. The march has been named Nirmala Tungabhadra Abhiyan (Clean Tungabhadra Campaign)

SHIVAKUMAR MEETS KHARGE, SAYS NO POLITICS DISCUSSED

● SIDDU & I WILL ABIDE BY BRASS' DECISION, REITERATES DKS ● SIDDARAMAIAH TO LEAVE FOR DELHI TODAY, TO TAKE PART IN CWC MEETING

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar called on All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The meeting takes place days ahead of the crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Delhi, scheduled for December 27.

Speaking to media persons after meeting Kharge, Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief, said that he did not discuss politics with the party president. "I haven't discussed anything(about change in leadership) with him, and I won't either. There is no need for it. Siddaramaiah and I have already said that we will abide by the decision of the high command," Shivakumar said.

On Kharge's statement that the leadership issue must be resolved at the state level, Shivakumar said it is natural for a veteran like him to guide juniors. "There is a CWC meeting on Saturday. As KPCC chief, I provided input on various matters, including the MGNREGA issue that would be discussed at the CWC meeting. There was no political talk during our meeting," Shivakumar reiterated.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar greets AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

On the controversy surrounding the new VB-G RAM G Bill, which replaces the earlier MGNREGA, Shivakumar said, "MGNREGA helped panchayat leaders decide what work to take up. We are now told that the Centre will decide which work to take up in which district. By next February, MGNREGA will complete 20 years of its launch, and hence we have decided to organise massive protests."

When asked if he would attend the CWC meeting, the Deputy CM said, "I will definitely go if I am invited... but I haven't been called yet. I am aware that the CM has been invited. But the Deputy CM has not been invited (as it is not the norm)," Shivakumar said. Asked if the Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs are not invited for CWC meetings, Shivakumar said, "They are only called for the extended CWC meetings. I will go if I am invited."

'Not just stage orator, I worked in all capacities'

Indirectly signalling that he has not retracted from staking the claim for the CM post, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Thursday asserted that he had toiled for the party, including hoisting the flag as an ordinary worker, in every capacity.

"I have done all the work at the party. Haven't just delivered speeches from the dais", he told reporters after meeting AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. His statement has been interpreted in the political circles as a salvo to his detractors within the party who have been allegedly scuttling his ambition to become the CM.

Shivakumar, on Wednesday, told reporters in Delhi that he would continue as deputy CM, and he would remain as a party worker permanently, more than acquiring power and position. "I am a lifetime party worker. I am a worker. I have erected the party flag as a party worker, and I have hoisted the flag as a party president. I have pasted posters on the wall, and I have also swept floors. I have done everything that the Congress needs," Shivakumar said.

> **I haven't discussed anything(about change in leadership) with him, and I won't either. There is no need for it. Siddaramaiah and I have already said that we will abide by the decision of the high command**
>
> Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on his meeting with AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge

Rahul puts leadership decision on hold after reports suggest 'repercussions'

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, **Rahul Gandhi**, has reportedly received reports from various sources, including election strategist Sunil Kanugol, on the repercussions if any changes are made in the Congress government in Karnataka. According to highly placed sources, this is the reason why Rahul has kept the decision on the change of guard in the state on hold.

While Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is yet to get an audience with Rahul, Siddaramaiah sympathisers—MLC BK Hariprasad and Minister KJ George—met the LoP recently and reportedly voiced their opinion against any change in chief minister.

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge also met Rahul, but it is not known what transpired between them.

According to informed sources, Rahul has got reports from various sources, including Kanugol, suggesting that the time is not ideal for any change in leadership in Karnataka.

Recently, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge had said that the confusion over leadership exists only in the party's state unit and not with the high command.

Also, AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala are busy in their states of Kerala and Haryana, respectively. While Venugopal is eyeing the CM post if the Congress wins in Kerala, Surjewala aspires to become the Haryana PCC chief, party insiders said. This means that the decision on power sharing in Karnataka lies only with Rahul Gandhi, sources said. But, Rahul is expected to go on a Europe trip after attending the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Delhi on December 27 and return only after January 10. Until then, there would be no decision— either on a cabinet reshuffle or a CM change in the state.

In all probability, Siddaramaiah is likely to break the record set by D Devaraj Urs as the longest-serving CM. Siddaramaiah will break the record on January 6, completing 7 years and 238 days in office. Also, Siddaramaiah is expected to present a record 17th budget, sources said.

Siddu to leave for Delhi today

CM Siddaramaiah will leave for Delhi on Friday evening (December 26) and meet party Central leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on the sidelines of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting to be held on December 27. He is also likely to meet union ministers during his visit and discuss projects concerning Karnataka. It is unlikely that he will take up the issue of a change in leadership or a cabinet reshuffle. The CM is expected to visit Delhi after Rahul returns from his Europe trip and seek approval for the cabinet reshuffle, sources added.

BJP will get majority if Assembly polls held now, claims Vijayendra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BJP president **BY Vijayendra** on Thursday said that the party is confident of winning around 140 assembly seats even if the assembly polls are held now or in 2028. The party is in the opposition now due to its own mistakes, and there is no need for the workers to be apprehensive, he said.

Speaking at former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st birth anniversary celebrations at the party office, the BJP leader said people are angry with the Congress government. If the elections are held tomorrow or in 2028, the BJP is confident of coming to power on its own by winning around 130 to 140 seats, he said.

He appealed to the BJP workers to strengthen the party across the state. Hitting out at the Congress for terming the BJP as anti-minorities, the BJP leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP are not against the minorities. The BJP opposes anti-national elements that raise pro-Pakistan slogans, he said.

Former Prime Minister Vajpayee's work is an inspiration for all the party workers. He had traveled extensively in the state and inspired senior leaders, including BS Yediyurappa, DH Shankar Murthy, Ramchandra Gowda, and Jagadish Shettar, to strengthen the organization, he said.

"Be it EVMs or ballot papers, the fate of the Congress will not change. The Congress is losing its relevance, and that was clear from the results in the town panchayat elections," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, hit out at the Congress for making allegations of electoral malpractices.

SEA OF DEVOTEES

Devotees pull the chariot at the Brahmarathotsava at Ghati Subramanya in Doddaballapura on Thursday | EXPRESS

Spl B'luru-Vijayapura train draws praise, MB Patil seeks permanent service

BENGALURU: To ease passenger rush during the Christmas and year-end holiday season, South Western Railway (SWR) operated a special train from Bengaluru to Vijayapura via the Hubballi and Gadag Bypass for the first time. Infrastructure Development and Vijayapura district in-charge Minister MB Patil welcomed the move and urged that the service be made permanent. Patil said sustained efforts had been made to route trains between Bengaluru and Vijayapura through the Hubballi and Gadag bypasses, including multiple meetings with Railway officials. The special train, he said, marked the first success of these efforts. Since the train ran via bypass lines, it did not require engine reversal at either Hubballi or Gadag, reducing operational delays. The special train, with just nine stops, departed Yeshwantpur on Wednesday night and reached Vijayapura on Thursday morning, though it was delayed due to its special-service status. Patil noted that passengers in Vijayapura district had responded positively. Efforts are underway to reduce the Bengaluru to Vijayapura travel time from 14 hours to 10 hours. Patil has also written to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, seeking permanent services and revised schedules for overnight trains. **ENS**

Satish says no misuse of Gruha Lakshmi funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

KARNATAKA Public Works Minister **Satish Jarkiholi** has categorically rejected the BJP's allegations of misuse of funds under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, asserting that not a single Rupee of the Rs 5,000 crore earmarked for the February and March instalments has been diverted or misappropriated.

Satish clarified in Belagavi on Thursday that the amount in question has not yet been released, and therefore claims of misuse are baseless and politically motivated. "The money has not been disbursed so far. The BJP is deliberately misleading the public by alleging misuse where none has occurred," the minister said.

He added that the Finance Department is expected to issue a detailed clarification to put the matter to rest and explain the procedural reasons behind the delay. "Once the official clarification comes from the Finance Department, all doubts will be cleared," Satish added.

Reassuring beneficiaries of the flagship welfare scheme, the minister said there was no cause for concern as the pending instalments would be released soon. "The next instalments are on the way, and along with them, the pending amount will also be credited. The government remains fully committed to the Gruha Lakshmi scheme," he said.

Turning to political matters, the minister acknowledged that internal differences within the Congress could have an impact on the party's prospects in the forthcoming elections if left unaddressed. "Internal squabbles are not healthy for the party. If they continue, they will affect the election outcome," he cautioned.

Satish said it was imperative for the Congress high command to step in and resolve the issues at the earliest to ensure unity and organisational discipline. "The leadership at the top must intervene and set things right," he added.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy poses with the Atal Puraskara Awardees – (seated from left) Dr S Chandrashekar Shetty, Devaraj Urs Academy president, Dr HS Nagaraja, founder & chief mentor, BASE & Prayoga, and Prof Govindan Rangarajan, director, IISc – in Bengaluru on Thursday. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai and former DCM Dr CN Ashwathnarayan were present | VINOD KUMAR T

HDK: Frivolous politics is prevailing in state & governance has collapsed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy said on Thursday that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is striding towards becoming the world's third-largest economic power, but Karnataka, which once stood as a model of good governance and development, is now heading towards decline under Congress government.

Speaking at a programme organised by the Kempegowda Foundation in Bengaluru to mark the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Union Minister said Karnataka was once synonymous with exemplary governance and had adopted an outstanding development model and emerged as a leader for the entire nation. However, under the Congress government's administration, all these distinctions have been lost. Frivolous politics is being played in the State and administration across all departments; including health, education, agriculture and revenue has deteriorated, he said.

SWACHH MATTERS

Tourism Min Shekhawat to be in Hampi on spruce up mission

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hampi

A *The New Indian Express* report highlighting poor maintenance at the UNESCO World Heritage site Hampi during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent visit was taken up at the Union Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday. Following this, Union Minister for Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is scheduled to visit Hampi in the first week of January to review the situation.

Sources said the Cabinet discussion referred to the *TNIE* report on the lack of cleanliness and infrastructure at Hampi during Sitharaman's visit last week. Acting on the report, the state government sought an explanation from the Vijayanagara district administration regarding the lapse.

During Sitharaman's visit to Hampi for discussions related to the upcoming Union Budget in the Contemplation Workshop held in Hampi, unhygienic conditions, including human waste, were reportedly found near the Kodandarama Temple. Upset by the situation, the Finance Minister curtailed her visit and returned to her private hotel. Around 120 senior officials from the Finance Ministry had accompanied her.

Vijayanagara DC Kavita Mannikeri inspects Hampi on Thursday

Officials said Sitharaman expressed strong displeasure with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for failing to maintain cleanliness at the heritage site and warned that strict action would follow if the situation was not addressed before her next visit.

Shekhawat assured the Cabinet that he would visit Hampi to assess the issues and ensure corrective measures. As per district administration sources, Shekhawat is scheduled to visit Hampi on January 6.

On Thursday, Deputy Commissioner Kavita Mannikeri, along with senior district officials, conducted an inspection of the Hampi heritage area. During the visit, ASI officials were served a notice for poor maintenance during the Finance Minister's visit.

A senior district administration official said the notice was issued based on the TNIE report published on December 23, which brought the issue to national attention.

"For the past two years, the district administration has repeatedly written to the ASI about the lack of public toilets and poor maintenance at Hampi. However, no action was taken," the official said.

> **For the past two years, the district administration has repeatedly written to the ASI about the lack of public toilets and poor maintenance at Hampi. However, no action was taken** — Official

EXPRESS READ

People will beat you with slippers, Congress MLA berates tahsildar

BENGALURU: Congress MLA from Magadi HC Balakrishna courted controversy by heckling the tahsildar, saying the public will beat the latter with slippers if their grievances are not addressed. Balakrishna berated tahsildar DP Sharath Kumar, a young KAS officer, at a meeting to attend to public grievances at the Taluk Panchayat office in Magadi town.

Balakrishna said, "Write the name of any officer who is not working, I will call the Assistant Commissioner (officer above tahsildar rank). Let's open the complaint box once a month. You will be answerable to the people, if not, I will get people to beat you with slippers. If I don't get their work done, they will either beat me with slippers or you," he told the officer who sat beside him. Balakrishna advised the officer to adopt pro-people officers like late DK Ravi, who was Kolar DC, as his role models. "Do people kiss you for not getting their work done? Aren't you ashamed? What should officials of your age be like? When DK Ravi died, many people felt let down. But if you go away people will not bother," he said. He also said tahsildars could become MLAs if they work for the people. **ENS**

A 40-year-old migrant worker from Rajasthan died after he allegedly lost his balance and fell from the terrace of a rented house at Margoli in Basrur village, Kundapur. According to the police, the incident occurred on the night of December 22. The deceased has been identified as Hemendara Singh. He had been working as a tile fitter in Basrur for the decade and was residing in a rented house there

1 dead in cylinder explosion near Mysuru Palace

Led to stampede-like situation, 4 injured

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

A tragic accident marred Christmas celebrations near the iconic Mysuru Palace on Thursday night, when a helium cylinder used by a balloon vendor exploded near Jayamarthanda Gate, killing the vendor on the spot and injuring four others.

The incident occurred around 8.30pm, while thousands of visitors had gathered at the palace premises to enjoy the annual flower show. A musical concert by popular singer Vasuki Vaibhav was also under way just 100 metres from the accident scene.

According to eyewitnesses, the blast occurred when a balloon vendor was using a helium cylinder to fill balloons near Jayamarthanda Gate. The impact of the explosion caused panic among the large crowd, leading to chaos and a temporary stampede-like situation. There was tension in the area for nearly half-an-hour as people dispersed in fear, unsure of what had happened.

The balloon vendor, an unidentified man estimated to be around 40 years old, died on the spot. His identity and whereabouts are yet to be ascertained by the authorities.

Four passersby who were walking near the palace sustained injuries, and were immediately shifted to KR Hospital and JSS Hospital for treatment. They have been identified as Lakshmi from Bengaluru, Manjula from Nanjangud, Shahina Shaber from Kolkata, and Kotresh Gutte from Ranibennur, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar confirmed that the blast resulted in one death, one grievous injury, and three other injuries. The five affected individuals include two men and three women, including tourists and local residents, she said.

Following the incident, the concert was immediately stopped, and the crowd was dispersed as a precautionary measure. Traffic on the busy road opposite the palace and exhibition grounds was temporarily halted to facilitate emergency response. Police, fire personnel, a forensic team, dog squad and an anti-bomb squad were deployed to investigate the cause of the explosion and rule out any foul play. Officials stated that further details are being gathered, and a detailed investigation is under way. The incident has raised concern about safety measures involving helium cylinders in crowded public spaces, especially during major public events.

Injured people being shifted to hospitals in Mysuru on Thursday | UDAYASHANKAR S

PAYING LAST RESPECTS

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy visits the Kriya Samadhi of senior most MLA Dr Shamanur Shivashankarappa at Kalleshwara rice mill in Davangere on Thursday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

PNB organises meet-up for NRI customers

BENGALURU: Punjab National Bank (PNB) organised a meet-up in Bengaluru for its Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers to address their banking requirements. During the meet, PNB officials showcased the bank's suite of NRI offerings, including NRE/NRO accounts, remittance services, investment avenues and digital banking solutions. PNB zonal manager Vandana Pandey assured customers of the bank's continuous focus on providing customer-centric services. Circle head Ratish Kumar Singh and other senior bank officials were present.

SP cautions coffee growers and traders

KODAGU: Kodagu SP K Ramarajan has instructed the coffee and pepper traders to get the information from the sellers while purchasing coffee and pepper. He cautioned them against illegal sales of coffee and urged them to collect necessary information before trading it. Since coffee harvesting is ongoing across the estates in the district, he cautioned that cases have been registered regarding theft of coffee and pepper bags from the estates. Police officers have already been instructed to collect information about coffee and pepper traders.

Self-harm among adolescents, young adults on the rise, say psychiatrists

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

IN what can be called a dangerous trend, one that everybody must pay attention to, there is a steady rise in self-harm cases among adolescent children and young adults. Child and adolescent psychiatrists from Nimhans are expressing concern over the disturbing trend among children aged 12 to 18, and young adults up to 25 years.

Dr John Vijay Sagar Kommu, Head of Department, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nimhans, said, "Self-harm among adolescents is the common case reported to mental health professionals. While we can't point out the exact figures, there has been a steady raise in self-harm cases. The reasons are family issues, peer pressure, academic pressure, peer relationships and when parents try to keep them away from technology and social media." He explained, "We come across children who have thoughts about self-harm and also attempt self-harm. It is categorised into two types -- suicidal behaviour and attempted suicide, and Non-Suicidal Self Injury (NSSI). In NSSI, there is no suicidal intent but they engage in self-injurious behaviour like cutting themselves superficially using sharp objects, burning, consuming tablets and small amounts of chemicals, scratching themselves with nails, hitting themselves against hard surfaces and so on. Though it may start as NSSI, it will progress into suicidal thoughts like jumping from heights or hanging themselves."

> **Whenever there is stress, adolescents and young adults must speak to teachers, family members and friends to cope with it rather than involve in self-harm**
>
> Dr John Vijay Sagar Kommu

Psychiatrists highlighted that children engage in this type of behaviour when they have psychological distress like anxiety and depression. John said, "There is no rule that there should be an underlying psychological disorder for those who are into NSSI. They have depression and anxiety issues for various reasons."

Meanwhile, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma, who deals with technology de-addiction in the SHUT clinic (Services for Healthy Use of Technology) said, "We have come across cases of children who attempt self-harm if parents keep them away from gadgets. Parents are also equally scared, especially when they have only one child. Addressing technology addiction is a bigger challenge today."

THERAPIES AND MEDICATIONS

Psychiatrists and psychologists don't jump into therapy or medication when they come across cases of self-harm among adolescents. Dr John explained, "Children require a comprehensive mental health evaluation. Therefore, we speak to them and build a rapport. We diagnose the kind of stress adolescents may have experienced. Parallel to this, we conduct family intervention where we counsel parents that there is nothing shameful about children involved in self-harm, that has to be addressed on time. After this, we provide them with psychotherapy once a week and sometimes, they might even require medication. There are also cases where we have to facilitate rehabilitation and provide them with therapy five times a week, monitor their progress and behaviour."

Former NCTE chairman, 3 others get three-year RI in corruption case

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IN a case of corruption, conspiracy and cheating, the Special Court for CBI Cases sentenced the former chairman of the National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), New Delhi, and its South Regional Committee's three former members to three years rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 2.35 lakh each.

It also sentenced NM Threerthe Gowda, Secretary of the Dr Radhakrishna Teachers' Institution at Devanahalli in Bengaluru Rural, to five years rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 7.10 lakh.

Judge Satish J Bali, the Special Court for CBI Cases, passed the order sentencing all the five accused as they were found guilty of the offences punishable under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC ACT) and the IPC, based on the chargesheet filed by the CBI. The convicted are former Chairman of NCTE S K Thakur (77), who retired as a professor of Himachal University, Shimla; former Members of NCTE's South Regional Committee, such as K Rayar (68); Dr Jeevan Jyothi Sidhana (55), former Principal, Cheema College of Education, Kishankot in Punjab and Dr I S Suri (77), who retired as professor of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), New Delhi. The accused Nos. 1, 3 to 5, were sentenced under the provisions of IPC and PC Act, while the accused No.2, Theerthe Gowda (64), was sentenced for cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Judge Satish J Bali in his judgment referred to the judgment of the apex court which held that there is no scope for reforming the convicted public servant unless the court awards appropriately deterrent punishment, taking note of the nature of the offence and status of the offender.

Neuro Justice Trilogy launched, focus on disability in MVC cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Neuro Justice Trilogy and accompanying Neuro Justice Framework (NJF) handbook were released on Wednesday at the NIMHANS Convention Centre, with the aim of reshaping how courts assess disability in motor vehicle crash (MVC) cases. The publications seek to address gaps in the existing legal approach by proposing a function-based method of evaluation, focusing on how neurological injuries affect a person's daily life and abilities, rather than relying on symptoms or percentage-based disability assessments currently used in judicial proceedings.

Authored by functional neurosurgeon Dr Sharan Srinivasan and neuro-rehabilitation specialist Dr Prathiba Sharan, the trilogy focuses on how neurological injuries affect a person's daily functioning, behaviour and ability to participate in family and social life.

Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar said their work highlights the need for greater engagement between legal and medical disciplines. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said integrating medical science with governance and legal processes was relevant to improving outcomes for accident victims.

Tigress caught in foresters' trap in Gundlupet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A FOUR to five-year-old tigress that had been frequenting villages near the Bandipur Tiger Reserve was caught in a trap set up by forest officials at Depapur village of Gundlupet taluk on Thursday afternoon.

According to Assistant Conservator of Forests of Gundlupet Sub-division Suresh K, the Forest department installed the trap known as a 'Tumkur cage' following repeated requests from residents of Depapur and neighboring villages who had been concerned about the big cat's movements near human settlements and attack on livestock. Villagers gathered near the site to witness the unusual scene. Many watched from a safe distance, visibly anxious as they observed the animal inside the trap.

Officials arrived and began preparations to transport the tigress to a wildlife rehabilitation centre where it will be evaluated before being released back into a suitable forest habitat.

The tigress that had been frequenting villages near BTR was caught | EXPRESS

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

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PRO/AAM(M)/100/2025 GENERAL MANAGER

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-Auction programme for the month of JANUARY & FEBRUARY-2026

PUB/1668

JANUARY e-Auction-2026		FEBRUARY e-Auction 2026	
DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS	DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
01.01.26	SECUNDERABAD, RAYANAPADU	02.02.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI
02.01.26	HYDERABAD, TIRUPATI	03.02.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU
05.01.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA	04.02.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA
06.01.26	GUNTUR, NANDED	05.02.26	GUNTUR, NANDED
07.01.26	VIJAYAWADA	06.02.26	VIJAYAWADA
08.01.26	SECUNDERABD, TIRUPATI	09.02.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI
09.01.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU	10.02.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU
12.01.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA	11.02.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA
13.01.26	VIJAYAWADA, GUNTUR	12.02.26	GUNTUR, NANDED
16.01.26	NANDED	13.02.26	VIJAYAWADA
19.01.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI	16.02.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI
20.01.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU	17.02.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU
21.01.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA	18.02.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA
22.01.26	GUNTUR, NANDED	19.02.26	GUNTUR, NANDED
23.01.26	VIJAYAWADA	20.02.26	VIJAYAWADA
27.01.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI	23.02.26	SECUNDERABAD, TIRUPATI
28.01.26	HYDERABAD, RAYANAPADU	24.02.26	HYDERABD, RAYANAPADU
29.01.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGUDA	25.02.26	GUNTAKAL, LALLAGDUA
30.01.26	GUNTUR, VIJAYAWADA	26.02.26	GUNTUR, NANDED
		27.02.26	VIJAYAWADA

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Indian Overseas Bank

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules]

E-auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the **constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.01.2026** for recovery of **Rs.9,13,40,790/- (Rupees Nine Crores Thirteen Lakhs Forty Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Only)** as on **18.12.2025** due to the Secured Creditor from the borrowers **M/s. Marappar Textiles Private Limited** at S F No. 653/2 & 654/2, Kanjapalli Pirivu, Paduvampalli Road, Kanjapali Village, Annur, Coimbatore-641653, represented by **(1) Mr. M. Shanmugham (Managing Director & also legal heir of Mrs. S. Philomena),** S/o Marappan,19. Om Sakthi Nagar, Police Quarters Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore-641006. **(2) Mrs. Philomena, Director (Deceased),** W/o Mr. M. Shanmugham and the **guarantors/ mortgagors (a) Mr.S. Prithivraj (Guarantor & also legal heir of Mrs. Philomena) S/o M. Shanmugham, (b) Mrs. Deepa Prabhakar (Legal heir of Mrs. S.Philomena) D/o M. Shanmugham, (c) Divya Shanmugham (Legal heir of Mrs. S. Philomena), D/o M. Shanmugham** at 19, Om Sakthi Nagar, Police Quarters Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore-641006. **(d) Mrs. Aishwarya Lakshmi (Guarantor),** W/o Mr. S. Prithivraj, 19, Om Sakthi Nagar, Police Quarters Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore-641006. **(e) Mr. G. Ramesh Babu,** S/o R. A. Govindoss,12 A, Second Street, Rajappa Nagar, Thanjavur- 613007. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as given below against the individual scheduled property:

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :

Schedule: Property Belonging to Mr. S. Prithivraj, S/o Mr. M. Shanmugam. Property Id: IOBA15510108. The property at Flat No. B001, Ground Floor at Site No.1, 2 and 3, House List Khatha Nos 319/26, 321/30 and 321/31 CMC Khatha Nos. 1058/230, 1059/229 and 1060/231, Munnekola Village, Varthur, Hubli, Bangalore South Taluk (Aiswarya Serenity Building) with 1180 sq. ft. super built up area building. Al that part and parcel of the immovable properties bearing (1) site No.1, house list Khatha No. 319/26, now CMC Khatha No.1058/230, (2) Site bearing No.2 House List Khatha No.321/30, now CMC Khatha No.1059/229, (3) Site bearing No.3 House List Khatha No.321/31, now CMC Khatha No.1060/231, situated at Munnekola Village, Varthur Hubli, Bangalore South Taluk, now assigned clubbed khatha No.229, 230, 231 and site No. 1, 2 and 3 totally measuring 27666 sq. ft. bounded on the North by - Road, South by - Private Property, East by - Private Property, West by - Private Property.

Reserve Price : Rs.95,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakh only)
(Including Applicable TDS and baanknet Portal Charges)
EMD : Rs.9,50,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Thousand only)
Bid Multiplier : Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Known Encumbrance, if any : Nil, as per Bank's knowledge
Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 30.01.2026 (Friday), 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 PM
with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed.
Portal : **https://baanknet.com**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's website i.e. **www.iob.in https://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx/Tendertype=E_Auction]** and **https://baanknet.com**

Place : Coimbatore
Date : 23.12.2025

AUTHORISED OFFICER
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

This may also be treated as a Notice under Rule 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.

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Four persons, who were travelling on a single two-wheeler, died on the spot when a tipper knocked them down at Ajjawara village in Chikkaballapur late on Thursday evening. The deceased has been identified as Manoj, brothers Narasimha Murthy and Nandeesh and Arun

● GROUP OF SEVEN WAS SUPPOSED TO ATTEND PRE-WEDDING PARTY ● 25 OF 33 BUS PASSENGERS WERE GOING TO THE HOLIDAY DESTINATION

MOST WERE ON HOLIDAY TRIP TO GOKARNA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWENTY-five of the 33 passengers of the ill-fated bus from Bengaluru, which caught fire after an accident in Chitradurga, were going to Gokarna, a popular tourist destination.

A group of seven people was supposed to attend a pre-wedding party in Gokarna. One of them is to get married in February. Five of them work with IT companies. Manjunath, bride-to-be Kavitha, Dileep, Sandhya, Shashank, Bindu and her eight-year-old daughter Griya, all residents of Mavalli and Binnypet, left Bengaluru around 7.30 pm on Wednesday.

Except Manjunath, the rest are cousins. While Manjunath has been admitted in Victoria Hospital's burns ward, Shashank and Sandhya are being treated in a private hospital in the city.

"My brother suffered third degree burns and is now under observation. He was shifted to hospital by his friend Dileep. The whereabouts of Dileep's sister Bindu and her daughter are not known. Due to the impact of the collision, the windshield broke and my brother and his friends jumped off the bus," Manjunath's brother Deepak told reporters.

Kavitha's father Kantharaju said, "I got to know about the accident around 3am. My daughter jumped out of the burning bus and hurt her back. She is not in a position to speak now."

Siddaraju, father of Gagana, who suffered injuries in the accident, said, "My daughter woke up after hearing the loud noise. She jumped out of the bus soon after the collision. I went to the spot and brought her home."

Isha's mother Nalini said that her daughter and her friends managed to escape the blaze after jumping out of a broken window.

Hemaraj Kumar, a software engineer, said he along with his wife and son were going to Gokarna. "The bus caught fire after the collision. We could not breathe properly because of the thick smoke. We managed to get out of the bus through a broken window. A passerby shifted us to a hospital in TumakuruFor almost 45 minutes after the accident, no help came from police or fire force personnel. This could be due to the traffic jam."

ORNAMENTS HELP PARENTS IDENTIFY BODIES

Hassan: Two software engineers from Channarayapatna taluk in Hassan district were among the six victims of the accident. HC Manasa (27) from Channarayapatna town and AM Navya (26) from Ankanahalli, were going on a holiday to Gokarna. They were friends and were working at different companies in Bengaluru. Their parents identified the bodies based on the ornaments they were wearing. Manasa's engagement had taken place three months ago while Navya was engaged more recently, sources added.

Fire personnel douse the flames after a truck and bus caught fire following a collision on NH-48 in Chitradurga district in the early hours of Thursday

NARROW ESCAPE FOR 42 KIDS IN ADJACENT BUS

Forty-two schoolchildren from T Dasarahalli, who were travelling in a bus running parallel to the ill-fated luxury sleeper bus, had a miraculous escape due to the quick thinking of their driver. The schoolchildren were en route to Dandeli and their bus was going adjacent to the sleeper coach bus. As both vehicles approached Gorlathu, a truck collided with the bus leading to a conflagration. The ferocity of the collision and the fire was such that the vehicle carrying the children were also impacted. However, the driver quickly steered the vehicle and parked it safely near a stormwater drainage along the highway, ensuring the safety of all passengers.

'Tried to steer bus away from truck, but couldn't'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

RAFIQ, driver of the ill-fated bus, said he tried to steer his vehicle away from the speeding truck approaching from the opposite direction, but couldn't. "The truck came jumped the road divider from the other side. It was overspeeding. I was maintaining a speed of 60-70 (km/hr) at that time. I saw the vehicle coming from the front. I could feel the truck hitting the bus, but after that I don't know what happened and how I was brought out," Rafiq told reporters. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

"I tried to control the bus on seeing the vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. My bus even touched another vehicle, which was moving next to us; I don't know what vehicle it was. But couldn't (control)," he said.

Mohammed Sadiq, cleaner of the bus who is also undergoing treatment with minor injuries, said he thrown out of the bus due to the impact. "The truck come from the opposite direction and rammed the diesel tank of the bus. I was in the front of the bus and was asleep. Due to the impact, I was thrown out," he said.

Tanker driver's negligence

Preliminary investigations pointed to negligence on the part of the tanker driver, police said. The truck driver, identified as Kuldeep, died in the crash. The bus driver, conductor and a few passengers managed to escape by jumping out moments after the collision.

PM announces ₹2L for kin of victims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

CONDOLING the loss of lives in the accident between a truck and a private bus at Gorlathu in Chitradurga district on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in the Chitradurga district of Karnataka. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May those injured recover at the earliest. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," he posted on X.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said a proper investigation will be conducted into the accident and expressed grief over the loss of lives.

"My heart shook hearing the news of the horrific accident between a lorry (container truck) and a bus near Chitradurga in which many passengers were burnt alive. It is regrettable that the journey of those who were going home for the Christmas holidays ended in such a tragedy," he posted on X. He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

DCM DK Shivakumar said, "I wish the injured a speedy recovery. May such tragedies not recur."

Found 5 bodies in bus, one in truck, says cop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IGP, Eastern Zone, Ravikanthe Gowda said the container truck coming from Hiriyur hit the divider and rammed the private bus around 2am, and both vehicles caught fire, resulting in the death of six people. He said the speeding truck might have hit the diesel tank of the bus that resulted in the fire breaking out immediately, reducing the bus to ashes. "The driver of the container truck also died in the accident. We found five bodies inside the bus and the truck driver's body in the truck," he said.

"Our FSL team has arrived and is conducting an investigation. We will collect samples for DNA tests if tracing of bodies become difficult," said SP Ranjith Kumar Bandaru. "The injured have been admitted to Hiriyur Government Hospital, Sira Government Hospital, private hospital in Sira and Tumakuru Government Hospital. Three passengers with serious injuries were sent to Bengaluru for further treatment," he informed.

A case was registered at Hiriyur Rural police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 1 Family Court
IN THE COURT OF SRI MRIDUL KUMAR MISHRA Family Court, Ghaziabad.
SUMMONS FOR DISPOSAL OF SUIT (0.5, R.1,5.) — **Matrimonial Case/2859/2024, Tina chaddha Vs Jagannath NEXT DATE: 30-01-2026**

To, **Jagannath, Father -N. Kuppan, R/o 881,14th cross Indiranagar second stage Bengaluru 560038, Mobile No.9986316123, 9620990082**

Whereas **Tina chaddha** has instituted a suit against you for you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed (and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer all such questions on **30-01-2026** at 11:00 'o'clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and as the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on 02-12-2025.
Principal Judge, Family Court Ghaziabad (U)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client(s) intend(s) to purchase the below-mentioned Schedule Property from **Smt. Zeenathunissa, W/o. Sri. Husman Khan,** who claims to be the absolute owner, having acquired the same under an oral partition amongst the legal heirs of her father **Late Sri. M. Ahmed Khan** who had purchased the larger property (of which the Schedule Property is a part), to the extent of 37 guntas in Sy. No.1 of Neelasandra Village, Civil & Military Station, Bangalore, from **Sri. H. Narayanaswamappa** and his son **Sri. N. Munivenkatappa** (then minor, represented by his mother **Smt. Munninanjamma**) under **a Registered Sale Deed dated 10-02-1950** which was registered on **02-05-1950** as **Document No.196/1950-51 of Book-I in Volume No.732 at Pages 16 to 20** in the Office of the **Sub-Registrar, Civil Station, Bangalore.**

Any person(s) / institution(s) objecting to the proposed sale or asserting any manner of lawful / tenable right, title, interest or share over the Schedule Property or part thereof, is / are required to lodge their objections/claims preferably with photo-copies of documents based on which they object to the said sale or stake their claim, only by Speed Post with Acknowledgement Due, so as to reach at the below-mentioned address within **7 (seven) days** from the date of this publication, failing which our client(s) shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims of any nature thereon, and all claims even if existing, shall be deemed to have been waived off / abandoned. Any objections/claims received after the said period, or personal representation(s) or communication by any other mode shall not be entertained / considered under any circumstances, and shall not be binding on our client(s).

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the vacant site property bearing **Municipal No.40, BBMP E-PID No.2153827738** situated at **Bazaar Street, 3rd Cross, Neelasandra, Bangalore** in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.115 (Vannarpet Ward), measuring:

EAST to WEST : 62 feet 11 inches
NORTH to SOUTH : 45 feet 06 inches
Totally measuring about 2832 sq. feet and bounded on the:
EAST by : Masjid Property;
WEST by : Private Property;
NORTH by : Road;
SOUTH by : Private Property.

ABHAY KUMAR P. JAIN & V. RAMKUMAR, Advocates
LexJuris, No.202, PANCHARATHNA RACE-VIEW APARTMENTS
No.15/1, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, BANGALORE- 560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my client i.e., Syed Qualeelulla Quadri @Syed Khaleel Pasha is the absolute owner and in possession in respect of property No.401/BDA, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Ward No.29, Bangalore. East by: Site No.400, West by: Site No.402, North by: Road and South by: Site No.409. My client has lost below mentioned Documents. i.e., 1) Reg Sale deed Document/ Identification No.2488(2000-2001, 2) Allotment letter Document/ Identification dated 16/11/1987,3) Reg transfer agreement Document/ Identification No.7005/98-99, 4) Lease agreement Document/ Identification No. 5011/91/92,
In the event any person/persons/authority having the above said original Documents, kindly handover the same to the below mentioned address within 7 days of the publication of this notice. The general public are informed not to act on the basis of the said original Documents.

Aslam Khan Advocate,
No.214/18, 1st floor, Balaji Complex,
Narayana Pillai Stret, Bangalore-560051.
Mob :-9177453796

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC, AT DEVANAHALLI
O.S No. 289/2022
BETWEEN: TABASSUM RIYAZ W/o M.Y. Riyazzudin, R/at No.86, 2nd Cross, Papaishreddy Layout, Sultanpalya, R. T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032. ...Plaintiff

SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

1. HYDER ALI FATHE MOHAMMED S/o Late. Fathe Mohammed Noor Mohammed, Aged about 76 years **2. SHAKIR H MODI S/o** Hyder Ali Fathe Mohammed Aged about 48 years **3. ABBAR H. MODI** S/o Hyder Ali Fathe Mohammed Aged about 45 years Defendants Nos. 1 to 3 Residing at No.15, Rhenious Street, Richmond Town, Bengaluru-560025. **4. K. ABDUL BASITH** S/o Late. E. Abdul Khuddus Aged About 50 years R/at No.206/2, Marenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, presently Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru. ...Defendants

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.s 41 and 42 Khata No.289/200, situated at Marenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West 40 feet & North to South 60 feet, total measuring 2400 Sq.ft, bounded on: East by: Site Nos.31 & 32, West by: 25 feet Road, North by: Site No.40, South by : 40 feet Road
Whereas the above named plaintiff has instituted an injunction suit against the Defendants praying for a Judgment and Decree of permanent injunction, restraining the defendants or their agents, servants or any person, acting or claiming through or under them from interfering with the plaintiff's peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and consequential reliefs.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on 19.01.2026 at 11 am in person or through advocate/ pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and disposed of exparte against you.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 19th day of December 2025
BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT
SHERISTEDAR, PRL. CIVIL JUDGE And JMFC, DEVANAHALLI
Advocate for Plaintiff :
MOHAMMED ISMAIL ASSOCIATES,
Solicitors & Attorneys, No.22, Ground Floor, 5th Main, 6th Cross, Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru-560046.
Ph. 9448484426/9845055174

Government of Karnataka
Command Area Development Authority
Cauvery Basin Project-Mysuru

O/o Executive Enngineer,
No.02 Division, CADA, CBP
Vijayanagara 1st Stage
Mysuru

Phone Number: 0821-2414090 email-eecada2mysore@gmail.com

Short-Term Tender Notification No: 19/2025-26 Dated: 23.12.2025
(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore. The Executive Engineer, CADA No.2 Division, CBP, Mysuru has invited tender in Two Tender Document system for 03 Atchkat Road work in Chamarajanagara Taluk and 01 Atchkat Road work in Kollegala Taluk as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 from eligible tenderers through KPPP Portal. Interested bidders may access bidding documents from **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during working hours. The tenderers can download the tender documents from 23.12.2025. The last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid is 30.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM. Date of opening of Technical Bid is 31.12.2025 4:30 onwards and Financial Bid will be opened after obtaining approval of Technical Bid from competent Authority. For more Conditions & details Visit the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Note: If there are any corrections/modifications, it will be Published through KPP Portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
No.02 Division, CADA, CBP
Vijayanagara 1st Stage
Mysuru

ಸಂ.ವಾಸಾಸಂಂ:ಚಾ.ನಗರ: 586:2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 952/GDG/EE(E)/2025-26/5403 Date:24.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Operation Division, Gadag:

1) Supplying of Maintenance Material at 220KV S/s Gadag (Safety Audit Observation) **2)** Supply and fixing of Underhung Isolator PI and Female contact of GR Power Make Isolator of 220KV Doni Line 2 at 220KV Station Gadag **3)** Supply and fixing of Earth Switches for 220KV Lines at 220KV Station Gadag **4)** Supply and fixing of Male Contacts of 220KV Isolators of 220KV Bagalkot line 1 and 2 at 220KV Station Gadag **5)** Repair/ Replacement of faulty SANDS Make GPS Time Synchronizer unit at 220KV Station Gadag **6)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 220KV S/s Harthi (Safety Audit Observation) **7)** Supplying of 50Kg SF-6 Gas Cylinder at 110KV S/s Lakshmeshwara **8)** Supplying of Stationery Materials and various registers to KPTCL Division Office Gadag **9)** Overhauling of 11KV MEI make MCVCB breakers with required spares at 110KV S/s Naregal **10)** Arresting SF-6 Gas Leakage of 110KV ABB make Pneumatic breaker connected to 10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer-1 at 110KV S/s Dambal **11)** Supplying of 120/90KN, 220/110KV Class Polimer Insulator to 220/110KV Line in TLM Section Gadag **12)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 110KV S/s Bellatti (Safety Audit Observation) **13)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 110KV S/s Gajendragad (Safety Audit Observation).

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned **from 26-12-2025 at 10:00Hrs** onwards. Due date: **08-01-2026 at 04:00 pm.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele), Operations Division, KPTCL, Bapujinagar, Gadag-582 103.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Premises & Estate Dept., Local Head Office, 2nd Floor, III/1, Pt. J. N. Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001,Ph. No.: 0674-2394637, E-mail: agmpre.lhobhu@sbi.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR EMPANELMENT, PROCUREMENT & HIRING OF PREMISES

Premises & Estate Department, on behalf of SBI invites tender from the Architectural Consultancy FIRM, Contractors, Promoters, Private Parties, Firms & Integrated Facility Management through Pre-qualification process for captioned works. The eligible and interested parties may download the prescribed Application Form from the **Bank's website: "Bank.sbi->SBI in the news- > Procurement news" & GeM's Portal** from **31.12.2025** to **22.01.2026 (for Sl. No.: 1/2/3/4/5), 01.01.2026** to **22.01.2026 (for Sl. No.: 6/7) & 27.12.2025** to **09.01.2026 (for Sl. No.: 8) up to 3.00 PM.** Completely filled in application in the prescribed format along with all supporting documents should reach us in the aforesaid address on or before due date & time as per individual Serial Numbers. The Bank reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the offers received without assigning any reason thereof. The addendum/corrigendum, if any will be published in the Bank's Website only.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Notice Inviting Tenders	Last Date of Submission
1.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/16	Pre-qualification & Selection of Architectural Consultancy FIRM for "SBILD", Berhampur.	31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026
2.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/17	Hiring of Premises for Executive Guest House, Puri.	31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026
3.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/18	Empanelment of Vendors for Air-Conditioning work.	31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026
4.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/19	Empanelment of vendor for Supply & Fixing of Digital Signage.	31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026
5.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/20	Empanelment & Tender for Supply & Fixing of LED Backlit Flex Signage.	31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026
6.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/21	Pre-qualification & Tender for modular UPS at LHO, Bhubaneswar from OEM or authorised channel or Business Partner / Dealers through GeM's Portal for SITC of 250 KVA.	01.01.2026 to 22.01.2026
7.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/22	Pre-qualification & Tender of Catering & Housekeeping Services for "SBILD", Pahala.	01.01.2026 to 22.01.2026
8.	BHU/P&E 2025-26/23	Empanelment & Tender for Purchase of Mobile Handsets.	27.12.2025 to 09.01.2026

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 26.12.2025 **Asst. General Manager, (P&E)**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/ 3060/2025-26 Dt: 22.12.2025	Rs.91,06,070/- / Rs.1,82,200/-	02-01-2026 upto 5.00 p.m.	03-01-2026 after 5.01 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central).
2.	North-1	BWSSB/EEN-1/ TO/2960/2025-26 Dt: 23.12.2025	Rs.7,86,508/- / Rs.19,700/-	09-01-2026 upto 3.00 p.m.	10-01-2026 after 4.00 p.m.
3.	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ PB/2959/2025-26 Dt: 23.12.2025 (2nd Call) (Resrved for CAT-I)	Rs.39,58,315/- / Rs.39,583/-	01-01-2026 upto 5.00 p.m.	02-01-2026 after 5.30 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-1).
Office of the Chief Engineer (Central), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.					
4.	WWM-K-Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-K-V)/AE/PB/791/ 2025-26 Dt: 12.12.2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.66,12,000/- / Rs.1,32,000/-	01-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	02-01-2026 at 4.00 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-K-Valley).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4664/25-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-69/3032/2025-26 **Date: 24.12.2025**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible KPWD Class-II & above (Civil) Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience in the following work:

Name of the Work : Reconstruction and strengthening of asphalt Roads including construction of RCC Side drains and providing & laying of HDPE Water Supply pipe lines of Hebbal Industrial Area, Mysuru Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **12.01.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4679/Zen/2025-26

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CUDDALORE COLLISION

Accident due to negligence, driver arrested: TN SETC

Drivers, conductors instructed to conduct thorough checks before trips

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

THE State Express Transport Corporation's (SETC) preliminary inquiry into the accident that occurred at Ezhuthur on the Tiruchy-Chennai National Highway on Wednesday in which nine people died revealed that the crash could have been caused by the bus driver's negligence and not due to a tyre burst.

S Thaha Ali, driver attached to the SETC Madurai depot, was placed under suspension on Thursday. The Ramanathamam police (Cuddalore) also arrested Ali on charges of causing deaths due to negligence. The head-on collision involving an SETC bus and two SUVs near Thittakudi in Cuddalore had also left 10 people injured. Following an initial investigation by the General Manager (Technical), who inspected the accident site at Ezhuthur, the SETC administration confirmed that contrary to the driver's claim, there were no signs of a tyre burst. The bus was allegedly being driven at maximum speed, and the driver is suspected to have lost control due to negligence, without applying the brakes.

Mangled remains of two cars involved in the accident in Cuddalore | EXPRESS

"There was no damage to the central median to support the driver's version of events. Had there been a tyre burst, the wheel disc would have caused significant damage to the highway's bituminous surface and to the central median. No evidence of impact from a tyre disc was found at the accident site. The incident, therefore, appears to have resulted from negligence," an official said.

SETC buses are restricted to a maximum operating speed of 75 kmph. The SETC administration will conduct a separate departmental inquiry and take further action based on its findings. "At present, drivers and conductors have been instructed to thoroughly check the safety of the buses before starting their journey," the official added.

On Wednesday, the SETC bus departed from Madurai to Chennai at 2.30 pm. While travelling from Perambalur towards Virudhachalam around 7.30 pm at Ezhuthur, the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to cross the median and collide with two SUVs travelling from Chennai toward Tiruchy. The crash claimed the lives of nine persons, including four women, who were travelling in the two cars. The injured were taken to Perambalur Government Hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment.

> **There was no damage to the central median to support the driver's version of events. No evidence of impact from a tyre disc was found at the accident site**
>
> Official

COASTAL CHEER

People enjoy a pleasant evening at Marina beach on Thursday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Initiative to restore forests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHILE Tamil Nadu runs a similar briquette-making unit, Bandipur's initiative is a first-of-its-kind in Karnataka. In the past, forest departments used lantana to make furniture and handicraft items. But using it for clean energy production is unique.

Prabhakaran said if the demand for briquettes picks up, tribal communities will be roped in for lantana collection and processing. This initiative will not only provide them a steady source of income, but also helps in restoring forest health, he added.

Vijayan raises questions over Sonia-Potti meet

AGENCIES @ Kochi

Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** alleged that two accused - Unnikrishnan Potti and Govardhan, the owner of a jewellery firm in the Sabarimala gold theft case, had links with former Congress president Sonia Gandhi. He claimed that in a few photographs, the Rajya Sabha MP is seen receiving gifts from Govardhan, while in another, Potti is seen handing over or tying something on her hand.

Turning the focus back on the Opposition, Vijayan referred to photographs that have surfaced showing Potti, who has been arrested in the gold theft case, and Govardhan, a trader from Ballari allegedly linked to the sale of the gold, meeting Gandhi.

He questioned Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan and former Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala over their allegations in the theft case, rejecting claims that the accused had any personal access to him and instead pointing to unanswered questions involving senior Congress leaders.

Vijayan said the state government has never viewed the case through a party-political lens and has maintained a clear position that those responsible for the crime must be punished, regardless of their political background.

"This is being done deliberately for political gain," Vijayan said, adding that images were being distorted and misused to create a wrong impression. "Being present in a public place is not the same as having a private appointment," he said.

EXPRESS READ

SIT quizzes poachgate accused in tapgate probe

HYDERABAD: The SIT probing the phone-tapping case stepped up its inquiry on Thursday and questioned K Nanda Kumar, an accused in the 'poachgate' case in which an attempt was allegedly made to poach MLAs. Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar held a meeting with SIT officials to discuss the summoning of politicians and additional witnesses. The investigation has been expedited, with the aim of filing a supplementary chargesheet within a month. The SIT summoned all accused to Jubilee Hills police station on Thursday.

2 held for theft on train, gold worth ₹25 L recovered

HYDERABAD: The Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force arrested two persons for theft and recovered 210 grams of gold ornaments valued at about ₹25 lakh. They said that on the night of December 2, the accused booked tickets in the AC coach of Nanded Express, posing as passengers travelling from Visakhapatnam to Charlapally. While passengers were asleep, they allegedly stole purses containing gold ornaments from two women passengers and later got down at Charlapally to evade detection.

Stalin expresses anguish over attacks on minorities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

EXPRESSING anguish over the reports about attacks on minorities in many places in the country, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday said curbing riotous groups that divide society is a shared and urgent duty to be enforced with firm a resolve. In a post on X, he pointed out that the true strength and character of a majority lie in ensuring that minorities live without fear.

"When a few right-wing violent groups, acting in the name of the majority, indulge in attacks and riots, even as PM Narendra Modi participates in Christmas celebrations, it sends a disturbing message," the CM said and recalled that after Manipur, reports of attacks on minorities in Jabalpur, Raipur, and elsewhere are unacceptable to anyone who values harmony. A reported 74% rise in hate speech against minorities, since the BJP-led union government assumed office, signals grave danger ahead, he added.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, AT CHENNAI
I.A. No. 495 OF 2025
IN
A.I.R. No.2000 OF 2024

1.T. S. Krishnamurthy, S/o. Late T. S. Ramaiah, R/o. No. 23/2, 1st Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru - 560 003.
2. K. Prakash, S/o. T. S. Krishnamurthy, R/o. No. 23/2, 1st Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru - 560 003.
...Applicants

Versus

1. The Authorised Officer, TATA Capital Housing Finance Ltd., No. 82/1, Ground Floor Krishna Tower, Richmond Road, Bangalore - 560 025.
2. Sri R. Karthigeyan, S/o. Rangaswamy,
3. Smt. Ragini Rangaswamy, W/o. Rangaswamy, Respondents 2 and 3 are residing at No. 167, A-299, 5th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Prakashnagara. Rajajingar, 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 021.
4. Late Suguna (deceased) (Applicant in impugned S.A. 275 of 2017)
....Respondents

NOTICE

To

1. Sri R. Karthigeyan, S/o. Rangaswamy.
....2nd Respondent

2. Smt. Ragini Rangaswamy, W/o. Rangaswamy, Respondents 2 and 3 are residing at No. 167, A-299, 5th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Prakashnagara. Rajajingar, 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 021. **....3rd Respondent**

Sir/Madam

Take, notice that my client **T.S. Krishnamurthy** S/o. Late T. S. Ramiah, residing at R/o No. 23/2, 1st Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru - 560 003 has filed the above I.A. No. 495 of 2025 in AIR No. 2000 of 2024 before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal- at Chennai and the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to order notice to the Respondents No. 2 and 3 **(i.e., Sri Karthigeyan and Smt. Ragini Rangaswamy),** returnable by **08.01.2026**

Take notice and be present before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal at New Additional Building, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, Chennai- 600 006 **at 10.30 A.M. on 08.01.2026** either in person or through Counsel failing which the above application will be heard and decided in your absence.

T.R. Sundaram,
Advocate
No. 251, Addl.Law Chembers,
High Court Buildings, Chennai - 600 104
Mail ID : sundaram.adv@gmail.com
Cell : 94441-33193
Counsel for Petitioner/ Appellant.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the Original General Power of Attorney dated 22.02.2013 executed by Mrs. Mathana Sundari Krishnaswamy, D/o Mr. T. Krishnaswamy, in favour of Mrs. Viveka Ragukumar, W/o S. N. Ragu Kumar, empowering Mrs. Viveka Ragukumar to do all the acts, things and Deeds generally as her lawful attorney, as stipulated in the said General Power of Attorney, has been lost/misplaced. And a police complaint bearing no. 1954727/2025, dated 13.12.2025 has been lodged in the concerned police station. Despite diligent search, the said document has not been found and is perused lost.

If any person has any claim, objection or information regarding the said document, they may notify the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name: Reshma L Rao
No. 14/15, 3rd Main Road,
3rd Cross, 2nd Floor,
Chamundeshwari , Building,
Chamrajpet,Bangalore-560018,
Mob: 9108846772

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the Original Sale Deed dated 27.04.1992, registered as document no. 425/1992-1993 of Book -I, Volume : 3571, in pages :29 to 34, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South taluk, in respect of the property bearing No. 32, V.P. Katha No. 157/1, Assessment No.17, Situated at Naganathapura Village, Konappana Agrahara Village Panchayat, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South taluk, measuring east to west 30' ft and North to south 40'ft along with ½ square A.C. Sheet roof house, executed by Smt. S. Amrutha Kumari in favour of Mrs. Alice James has been lost/misplaced. And a police complaint bearing no. 1954759/2025 dated 13.12.2025 has been lodged in the concerned police station. Despite diligent search, the said document has not been found and is perused lost.

If any person has any claim, objection or information regarding the said document, they may notify the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further action will be taken to obtain a certified copy from the concerned SRO office..

Name: Reshma L Rao
No. 14/15, 3rd Main Road, 3rd Cross, 2nd Floor,
Chamundeshwari Building,
Chamrajpet, Bangalore-560018,
Mob: 9108846772

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Registered Office: 27, BKC, C-27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: No.22, 1st Floor, MG Road, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560001.
Corporate Identity Number - L65110MH1985PLC038137, www.kotak.com

E - AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) and / or Mortgagor (s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor"), the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor on 24-05-2023, will be sold through E-Auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS" on 29-01-2026, for recovery of an amount of **Rs.90,38,735.50 (Rupees Ninety Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Five and Paisa Fifty Only) as on 01-11-2025** together with further interest and other charges thereon at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest until payment/realization due to Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, being the Secured Creditor, from the respective Borrower / Mortgagor/s / Guarantor/s namely M/S. Arunagiri Imports & Exports Pvt Ltd, Mr. Sudhindra S Rai and Mr. Sri Rama M Rai in respect of loans lent & advanced to them. The details / description of Immovable Properties put up for e-auction, the Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and the Auction Schedule are mentioned below:

Name of the Mortgagor/s	Last date for submission of online bid	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (INR)
Mr. Sudhindra S Rai	28-01-2026 upto 04:00 pm	29-01-2026 from 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm	Rs.60,40,000.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Forty Thousand Only)	Rs.6,04,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakhs Four Thousand Only)

Details Of Immovable Property put for E – Auction : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Khatha No.522/108/3 (previous portion of property bearing Khatha No.522/108/2 being the converted land measuring 2 Acres 8 guntas in Sy.No.108/2), situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore district (land converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Official Memorandum dated 11.11.1992, vide No.B.DID.ALN.SR(A) 103/1988-89, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) and bounded on the: East by: Land in Sy.No.108/2; West by: Road; North by: Road, South by: Tank Bed. Together with existing buildings and structures thereon and buildings and structures as may be erected/constructed there upon any time from/after the date of respective mortgage and all additions thereto and all fixtures and furniture's. **Schedule 'B' property :** (Description of undivided share hereby conveyed) 270 Sq. ft., undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' property hereinabove. **Schedule 'C' property:** (Description of Apartment hereby conveyed) A Three bedroom Apartment bearing A-Block Flat No. A-103 on the Ground Floor, having a super built up area of 1350 sq. ft. with one reserved parking space in the Stilt floor of the Apartment building known as "Garden Residency" constructed on the 'A' property with proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use with right to pass through all the common passages leading to road for free for egress and ingress at all times entitled for all the common areas and amenities. **Other particulars :** The apartment building is constructed with solid cement blocks with cement plasters. It has R.C.C. roofing and vitrified flooring, main door of teak wood, others door being flush doors with aluminium sliding window shutters. One reserved car-parking space provided in stilt floor.

The undersigned may at his absolute discretion and on request from the prospective buyers, arrange for inspection of the said property on 16-01-2026 between 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm through his authorized representative/agent.

Important Terms and Conditions: (1) The E - Auction shall be conducted only through "On Line Electronic Bidding" through website https://www.bankeauctions.com/ on 29-01-2026 from 01.00 p.m. to 02.00 p.m with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each. (2) For details about E-Auction, the intending bidders may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd through Mr. Dharani Krishna – Mobile +91-9948182222; email id – andhra@c1india.com. (3) The intending bidders may visit the Bank's official website - https://www.kotak.com/en/bank-auctions.html for auction details and for the terms and conditions of sale. (4) For detailed terms and conditions of auction sale, the bidders are advised to go through the portal https://www.bankeauctions.com/ and the said terms and conditions shall be binding on the bidders who participate in the bidding process. (5) It is requested that the interested Bidder/s are required to generate the login ID and password from the portal https://www.bankeauctions.com/ before uploading the bid and other documents. (6) The bid form has to be filled in the prescribed form and is to be submitted / uploaded online only along with KYC documents of the Bidder/s on the portal https://www.bankeauctions.com/ on or before 28-01-2026 upto 04.00 p.m. and the scanned copies of the duly filled and signed bid documents and KYCs of the Bidder/s should be sent by mail to chandrashekar.shanmugam@kotak.com &/or sreedhara.s@kotak.com. The Bidder shall write the subject of the email "For purchase of Property in the matter of "ARUNAGIRI IMPORTS & EXPORTS PRIVATE LTD", (7) Prospective bidders may avail online training, for generating Login ID and password and for online bidding process etc., from M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd on above mentioned contact numbers. (8) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/FUND TRANSFER to the credit of Account Name – Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Account No. 06410125272001, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Nariman Point Branch, Mumbai, IFSC Code: KKBK0000958, on or before 28-01-2026 up to 04:00 p.m. The NEFT/RTGS/FUND TRANSFER shall only be done from the account/s of the intending bidder/s only. In case of delay in depositing the EMD and/or submission of Bid documents within the prescribed time limits due to any technical glitch, the Authorized Officer, to maximize the bid participation and inter-se bidding process, at its sole discretion and upon his satisfaction, can accept the Bid/s received after the schedule cutoff time without giving any disclosure to any person. Any bid submitted without depositing the EMD amount shall stand automatically rejected. The EMD deposited by the proposed bidder shall not earn any interest. (9) The bid price to be submitted shall be equal to and / or above the Reserve Price and during the bidding process, bidders who have submitted bids shall improve their further offers in multiples of INR 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Only). (10) In case any bid is placed within last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction proceeding, the closing time shall automatically and immediately get extended by another 5 minutes. (11) The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of the highest bid amount (including EMD already paid) immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings or on the following working day in case business hours is closed on the day of E - Auction, in the mode stipulated as above. The balance 75% of the highest bid amount shall have to be deposited within 15 days from the date on which the acceptance /confirmation of sale is conveyed to such successful bidder or such extended period which shall be at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer and within the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Security Interest Rules, 2002. (12) The highest bidder will not have any right and title over the property until the Sale Certificate is issued in his favour subject to realization of entire Auction Price and other incidental expenses. Sale shall be subject to terms and conditions of E - Auction and confirmation by the Secured Creditor to that effect. (13) If the successful bidder fails to deposit the entire bid / auction amount, the amount already deposited by the successful bidder shall be forfeited and the defaulting bidder shall neither have claim on the property nor on the amounts deposited. The Authorized Officer shall be free to exercise any one or more rights available to him in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Security Interest Rules, 2002, in respect of the auction property/ies. (14) On receipt of the entire sale consideration within the stipulated period as mentioned above, the Authorized Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate, the sale shall be completed thereafter, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited shall not entertain any claims. (15) The sale certificate shall be issued in the same name in which the Bid is submitted. No request for inclusion/substitution in the sale certificate of names of any person(s) other than those mentioned in the bid shall be entertained. (16) The EMD amount, to the unsuccessful bidder/s, shall be returned by Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, in their accounts by way of RTGS / NEFT / Funds Transfer, within 10 (Ten) working days and without any interest. (17) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject a bid or postpone/cancel the notified E – Auction Sale without assigning any reason. In the event of postponement/cancellation of the E – Auction Sale after submission of the bids, EMD submitted by the bidders will be returned, without interest and in case the bids are rejected, Authorized Officer can negotiate with any of the bidders or other parties for sale of the property by private treaty. (18) In an event of failure of the E – Auction Sale for the want of bids or otherwise or for any other reason, the Authorized Officer can enter into a private treaty for sale of the property, as a whole or any part thereof, with the proposed purchaser or any other party providing an offer to purchase the property. (19) In the event where a bidder is declared as the successful bidder in the e-auction sale conducted and subsequent to that, if the auction proceedings are stayed by any Court /Tribunal, at any stage till the stage of issuance of the sale certificate and handing over the possession, including but not limited to restraining the bank from further proceedings, then the bidder shall not have any right to claim the refund of the EMD/amount so deposited by him /her or any interest on the amount so deposited towards the sale of the property. The Bank at its sole discretion will refund the money so deposited, without any interest and/or damages and/or claims and no communication will be entertained whatsoever in this regard. (20) If any bidder intends to bid for more than 1 property under auction, then the bidders has to submit separate bids for each of the properties by following the process as mentioned above (if applicable to this e-auction). (21) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor, but the Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (22) Any other encumbrances are not known to the Bank. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of property Auctioned. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. (23) All statutory dues/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. (24) All outgoings charges i.e. Municipal Taxes, Maintenance/Society charges, Electricity and Water charges and any other dues or taxes including transfer charges / fees in respect of the property put for Auction-cum-Sale under the present notice shall be paid by the successful Bidder/Purchaser solely. (25) All other incidental charges (including but not limited to security charges or maintenance charges for preservation of the property under the present auction) will be borne solely by the highest bidder from the date of issuance of Certificate of Sale, which will have to be cleared / reimbursed to the Bank before registration of the Certificate of Sale. However, at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer, any just and reasonable delay will be considered for exemption, without setting any precedent for future. (26) As per Section 194-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, TDS @1% shall be applicable on the sale proceeds, if the sale consideration is Rs.50,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only) and above, the Successful bidder/purchaser shall deduct and deposit 1% TDS, in the name of Mr. Sudhindra S Rai to be borne by him from the sale price of the respective properties and deposit the same with Income Tax Department, Furthermore only 99% of the Sale price is to be remitted to the Bank. The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Bank, in favour of the Successful bidder/purchaser, only upon the receipt of Form 16B, Form 26QB and the Challan evidencing the deposit of such TDS. (27) Sale will strictly be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" & "NO RECOURSE BASIS" on the terms and conditions as mentioned herein, however the Authorized Officer shall have the absolute discretionary right to change or vary any of the terms and conditions. The bidders are advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding any encumbrances, Search in Sub-Registrar Office and Revenue Records and Municipal Records and any administrative Government records relating to the concerned Property and shall satisfy themselves regarding the nature and description of the property, condition, any encumbrances, lien, charge, statutory dues, etc. before submitting the bid for the concerned Property. Please note that the Bank/Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor does not in any way guarantee or make any representation with regard to the fitness/title of the property/ies/assets under auction. Sale/auction will be strictly on no recourse basis. (28) The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel / adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. (29) The bidders shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the sale and shall abide by the said terms and conditions. (30) The bidders should ensure proper internet connectivity; power back up etc., The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure, or technical reasons or reasons / contingencies affecting the E-Auction proceedings. (31) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited or its employees will not be liable for any claims from any person in respect of the property/ies put for sale. (32) The present notice is also uploaded on the Bank's official website i.e. www.kotak.com and interested parties can visit the same also. (33) For inspection of the property or for any further details kindly contact Mr. Chandrashekar Shanmugam on +91-7387072130 (Authorized Officers) or Mr. Sreedhara S on +91-9916165915.

In case there is any discrepancy between the publications of sale notice in English and Vernacular newspaper, then in such case the English newspaper will supersede the vernacular newspaper and it shall be considered as the final copy, thus removing the ambiguity.

Place: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Date: 26-12-2025

For Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd,
Authorized Officer

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF "THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIALASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower has defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines. Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mention date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore, the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.2 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.

The borrower attention is also invited as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to them only till date of publication of Sale Notice.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description of the Property
1.	MR. VENUGOPAL P MS. SOUMYA P (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c No. 410700002412	08/12/2025	Rs. 5755990.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing vacant Site No.SC-10, Present BBMP No.820/SC/10, in II Layout, Block No.1, formed oin converted Sy.Nos.11/1, 11/2, 11/3A, 11/3B, 12/1, 12/2, & 14 (duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purposes, vide order Nos. B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)252/92-93, dated 02/01/1993 and No.B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)165/92-93, dated 08/06/1994, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) of Lingadheeranahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Situated in Pavamanapura Layout, presently coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Hemmigepura Ward No.198, and measuring East tlo West:40'-0" Feet, North to South: 24'-4" Feet, totally measuring 976 Square Feet, and the Schedule Property bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Site No.SC-6, North by: Site No.77, South by: Nala (Drainage).
2.	MR. MANJA THIMMA BOVI MR. THIMMA BOVI Loan A/c No. 411400001872	08/12/2025	Rs. 256350.00	SCHEDULE : All that piece and parcel of Site of converted residential plot bearing Site No.03, Katha No.868/03, E-Property bearing No.150300700700120410, measuring East to West: 40+30.5/2 Feet, North to Sooth: 30+34/2 feet, Total measuring 1128 sft., and is carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.3 the afore said land has been converted for non-agricultural residential purpose by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore vide conversion Order No. ALN(N)SR 131/2004-05 dated 11-02-2005, Situated at Sharanya Residency, Basavanahalli Village, Kasaba Honbli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, and it is bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Site No.09, North by: Site No.02, South by: Site No.04.
3.	MR. SHIVA KUMAR K Loan A/c No. 412000003231 412000005271	10/12/2025	Rs. 2480249.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (Subject Matter of Conveyance) :All that piece and parcel of Plot No.113 having E Katha No.256/171/113, PID No.150200102400620187 in the Layout "SPRING HILLS" formed in Sy. No.54/1 and 54/2 situated at Kurubarahatti Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk Bangalore Urban District and the lands are duly converted from agricultural purpose to non-agricultural residential purpose the same was accorded sanction by Special District Commissioner, Bangalore district, Bangalore, Official Memorandum vide No.ALN(A)&(K) SR/17/13-14 dated 30.07.2013 and approved by the competent authority LAO/97/2013-+14 dt.28.04.2018 and bounded including all appurtenances whether underneath or above the surface thereto and admeasuring East to West: 15 meters and North to South: 9 meters in all measuring 135 Sq. Meters (1453 Sft) and bounded on as follows: East by: Road West by: Site No.110, North by: 112, South by: Site No.114.
4.	MR. SRINIVASULU K S Loan A/c No. 4002040000620	17/12/2025	Rs. 1918705.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : (DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE PROPERTY) All that piece and parcel of property being 3 Acres 09 Guntas in Sy. No.6, Situated at Geddalahalli Village, Krishnarajpuram Hobli, Bangalore East (formerly South) Taluk and presently bearing Municipal No.62/6, Geddalahalli (in the records of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike) Thanisandra Sub Division, Bangalore, converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Conversion Order bearing No.BDS:ALN(E)SR(KH):70/2007-08 dated 31/10/2008 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded by: East: Road and property in Sy. No.7, West: Property in Sy. No.23, North: Property in Sy. No.26, and South: Remaining portion of Property in Sy.No.6. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY (PROPERTY CONVEYED) : All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant immovable property bearing Site No.22 formed in Schedule 'A' Property measuring East to West: 39 Feet and North to South : 30 Feet and totally measuring 1170 sq. Feet and bounded by: East : Road, West : Plot bearing No.09 of Survey No.06, Municipal No.62/6, North : Plot bearing No.21 of Survey No.06, Municipal No.62/6, South: Plot bearing No.23 of Survey No.06, Municipal No.62/6.
5.	MR. NAGARAJA B MS. PALLAVI B V Loan A/c no. 410400014083	17/12/2025	Rs. 2845006.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (Description of the Property hereby sold and conveyed) All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the immovable Residential Property bearing Site No.25 (Twenty five), Old Katha No.96, present Katha No.96/1, presently assigned BBMP Sl. No.8804, situated at Channanayakanapalya Village, Doddabidarakallu Dhakale, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike(BBMP), Ward No.40-Doddabidarakallu, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface. Measuring East to West: 20-0 Ft. or 6.096 Mtrs., North to South: 40-0 Ft. or 12.192 Mtrs., Totally measuring 800 Sq. or 74.32 Sq. Mtrs. And bounded on : East by: Site bearing No.24, West by: Remaining Western of the same Property bearing Site No.25 North by: Site bearing No.16 South by: Road.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 26.12.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

EDITORIAL

"I would venture to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman" — Virginia Woolf

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE MUST TO RESOLVE LAND RIGHTS, IDENTITY ISSUES IN ASSAM

OMNIBUS judicial pronouncements in some cases can have unintended consequences elsewhere. Take Assam's Karbi Anglong. In its 2022 order in a case of landgrab in Patiala, the Supreme Court directed all state governments to evolve schemes to evict unauthorised occupants of gram sabha, panchayat, poramboke and shamlat lands, and restore them to the gram sabha or panchayat for the common use of villagers. Citing that ruling, the tribal Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) last year issued eviction notices to around 10,000 people who hail from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere, accusing them of illegally settling on reserved grazing lands in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. It opened a Pandora's box. The dispute of land alienation of indigenous people is a sensitive issue as the Karbi regions have constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule.

The contested occupation of Karbi land in what are called village grazing reserves and professional grazing reserves totals 7,184.70 acres. The settlers, who have been there for decades, sought the Gauhati High Court's protection, which issued an interim stay order. Since the petitioners argued that they were not squatters, the court directed the KAAC to clarify whether the disputed lands were part of the grazing reserves. Meanwhile, demands from a section of the occupiers—some of whom even figure in the National Register of Citizens—to de-reserve their lands triggered sharp protests among Karbi students and others. A recent hunger strike by the students and their subsequent eviction to a Guwahati hospital for medical treatment amid rumours of their arrest triggered riots and arson attacks. Two locals were killed and over 60 police personnel injured, including a director general. The protesters also set the ancestral residence of BJP leader and KAAC chief executive Tuliram Ronghang on fire.

The Karbi violence is not merely a law and order issue, but indicative of unresolved issues of land rights, identity and autonomy. Land de-reservation was allowed in certain places in Assam, but cannot be pushed through in Sixth Schedule areas. However, violence has no place in a democracy. With the Assam elections around the corner, a transparent, inclusive dialogue that factors in the rights of both tribal and non-indigenous communities, while allowing the judicial process to run its course, would be the best way forward.

RIGHTS AWARENESS NEEDED TO CURB TYRANNY OF RWAs

LAST week, a peculiar case came to light in Bengaluru where an apartment complex association had established a parallel justice system with the help of a private security agency. It had framed bylaws for the flat dwellers and criminal activities—including sexual harassment, use of narcotics and theft—were settled internally, with the association imposing fines ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 on 'offenders'. Over five months, the association had collected ₹3.3 lakh to suppress various crimes, until a whistleblower resident informed the police which filed an FIR against the association for extralegal activities. In an increasing number of cases, society associations, while authorised to keep vigil on illegal activities, are donning the role of vigilantes. A young man living in a Bengaluru flat recounted on Reddit that he was forced to vacate after a woman friend had stayed over for a few days. Judgemental elders police young women and bachelors on their lifestyle, clothes, timings, friends, partying and other 'vices'. This has emerged as a pet peeve among students and young professionals hoping to make a start in a new city—not just in Bengaluru, but in almost all metros of the country.

Self-appointed moral guardians trying to set rules for society are not rare. In the microcosm of housing blocks, resident welfare associations claim that right—on plants, pets, parking, diet, socialising and house helps. This neighbourly overreach is especially prickly on the issue of pets. A few arbitrarily impose a pet poop fine, while one society sought a deposit of ₹10,000 from families with pets as a surety against harm to other residents. RWAs are known to cross socio-religious lines with decisions on barring non-vegetarians and people from certain communities. Food choices have led to clashes between residents in Mumbai societies.

Attempts to impose social codes are a dangerous, extralegal trend creeping into an increasingly intolerant society. Residents must be aware of their right to privacy and equality, keep a record of transgressions, report harassment to the police, and seek legal recourse if needed. RWAs also play a crucial role in addressing civic deficiencies in infrastructure, safety, conservation and waste management. But in these micro self-governing bodies, it would be better for all residents if RWAs limit their interventions to common goods. Apartment complexes cannot be run like private republics.

QUICK TAKE

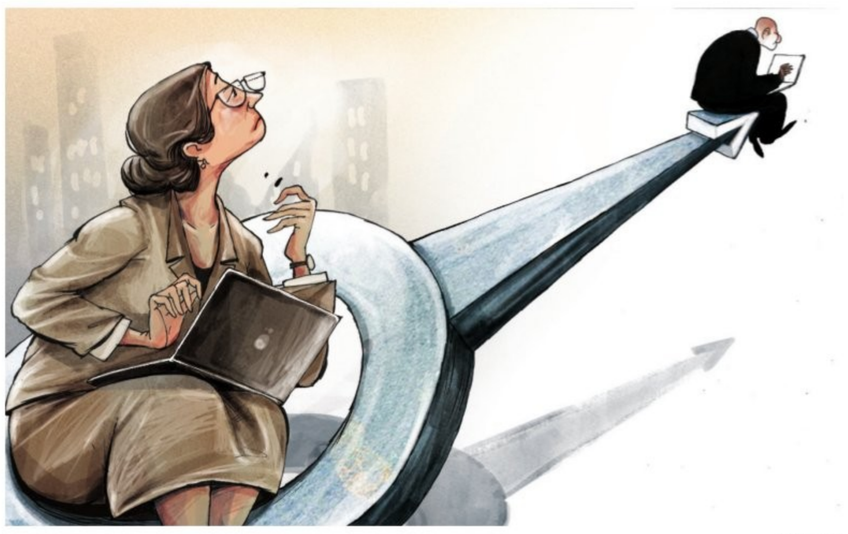
MAKE INDIA HEALTHY AGAIN

AS people emerge from feast-induced coma on the day after Christmas, many reinforce their resolve to balance diets. It's an opportune moment to remind ourselves of a disease that's increasingly threatening adolescent Indians—fatty liver. The severity of the condition was recently highlighted by a 14-year-old from Surat, who had to undergo a liver transplant in Mumbai to have a second shot at life. Alarmingly, chronic diseases caused by non-alcoholic fatty livers now affect every eighth obese Indian teenager. One part of the problem—nature, or genetics—cannot be willed away. But the other—nurture, or lifestyle choices—can. Too much of ultra-processed foods and little physical activity are robbing a whole cohort of a healthy future—something parents and teachers must urgently address.

To take off in the Intelligence Age, India cannot depend only on one engine. More women have to be welcomed into IT. It's a moral as well as economic imperative

THE OTHER HALF OF FUTURE: WOMEN'S ROLE IN AI AGE

KRIS GOPALAKRISHNAN
Former Vice Chairman and CEO, Infosys; Managing Trustee, Pratiksha Trust



SOURAV ROY

WHEN the Indian IT industry began taking shape in the early 1980s, we were operating in an environment of scarcity. Capital was expensive, infrastructure was fragile and the world's confidence in Indian engineering was untested. Yet, over four decades, we built a global services powerhouse on the back of process excellence, English-speaking talent and an insatiable hunger to learn. That era defined India as the world's services back office.

Today, we stand at a far more volatile and consequential inflection point. We are transitioning from the Information Age to the Intelligence Age. Artificial Intelligence is not merely a new tool; it is a fundamental reshuffling of the global economic order. We can no longer rely on the playbook of the past. The next phase of India's growth will not come from labour arbitrage or services alone, but from becoming a product nation—an economy driven by innovation, intellectual property and high-value research.

However, there is a glaring structural weakness in our foundation. India is currently attempting to take off while flying on one engine. The missing engine is the full economic participation of its women. The argument for bringing more women into the workforce is often framed as a matter of social justice or diversity. While those are valid moral arguments, the economic argument is far more urgent.

Consider the data. In China, the female labour force participation rate hovers near 60 percent. Women there have been a driving force in manufacturing, technology and the explosion of digital entrepreneurship. This participation was a critical component of China's rapid ascent to superpower status. In contrast, India's female labour force participation rate remains stubbornly low, often estimated below 30 percent.

This is not just a statistics problem; it is a GDP problem. We are effectively leaving half of our human capital on the bench. Estimates suggest that bridging this gender gap could add trillions of dollars to India's GDP over the next decade. For a nation aspiring to be an economic superpower, this underutilisation of talent is unsustainable.

As we move deeper into the age of AI, the composition of our workforce matters more than ever. There is a common misconception that AI will make human qualities obsolete. I believe the opposite is true. As algorithms automate routine cognitive tasks, the unique human capabilities of empathy, complex judgement and ethical reasoning will become the most valuable commodities in the market.

Technology is not value-neutral. It reflects the biases, perspectives and values of the people who build it. If the teams designing our AI models, healthcare algorithms and financial systems are homogenous, the resulting technologies will be fragile and biased.

We need women in the room—not just to 'balance the numbers', but to improve the product. Research consistently shows that diverse teams solve problems faster and more creatively. Women often bring a different approach to problem-solving—more collaborative, holistic and user-centric. In fields like healthcare, education and governance, where AI will soon make life-altering decisions, this perspective is not a luxury; it is a safeguard. We need women to ensure that our digital systems are designed for human well-being, not just computational efficiency.

Historically, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have seen skewed gender ratios, but this is changing. We must accelerate this shift. Careers in research and entrepreneurship are, in many ways, uniquely suited to women. They offer intellectual autonomy, the flexibility to define one's own path and the opportunity to build solutions for real-world problems. The product nation dream cannot be realised if 50 percent of our potential inventors are not playing the game.

There is another massive transformation looming on India's horizon: demographics. While we currently celebrate our demographic dividend of young people, we must also prepare for the inevitable shift towards an ageing society. India will soon house one of the world's largest populations of older adults.

This creates a demand for the Silver Economy—a marketplace for products and services designed to help people age with dignity, control and grace. This includes everything from assistive robotics and telemedicine to specialised insurance and community living models.

This is a sector ripe for innovation, and it requires a high degree of empathy and systems thinking qualities where women leaders often excel. Women entrepreneurs can lead the charge in designing the care ecosystems of the future, turning a demographic challenge into an economic engine.

The next question is how do we make it happen? The current workplace was largely designed for a different era. To bring women back into the workforce—and keep them there—we need to fundamentally redesign our institutions.

Flexibility as a standard: The post-pandemic world has proven that productivity is not tied to a specific desk. Hybrid work models, which offer flexibility without compromising output, are essential for allowing women to balance professional ambitions with personal responsibilities.

Safety and culture: We need zero tolerance for harassment and bias. But beyond safety, we need inclusion. A workplace where a woman feels she has to 'act like a man' to succeed is a failed workplace. We need environments that value diverse leadership styles.

Returnship programmes: Many talented women leave the workforce for caregiving and find it nearly impossible to return. Corporate India must treat these career breaks not as a resume gap, but as a pause. Robust 'returnship' programmes that skill and reintegrate women are essential.

The future of technology is not just about faster chips or larger language models. It is about how these technologies integrate into human life to solve human problems.

As we stand on the threshold of this new era, we must recognise that excluding women from the technological vanguard is a strategic error we cannot afford. We need their productivity to drive our GDP. We need their empathy to humanise our AI. We need their innovation to build our intellectual property.

India's rise to the top of the global economic order is not guaranteed. It will require a focused and whole-of-nation approach. Bringing women into the heart of the technology workforce is not just the right thing to do—it is the smart thing to do.

(Views are personal)

Full article on newindianexpress.com

UNITED BY BLOOD, SPLIT BY POLITICS

PRATIK KANJILAL
Senior Fellow, Henry J Leir Institute of Migration and Human Security, Fletcher School, Tufts University

SPEAKEASY

AIR travel out of Kolkata begins with time travel. Your cab drives to the airport down VIP Road, so named because when it was built in 1961, only VIPs could fly. Like many features of Kolkata, the airport is named after Netaji, but authentic natives still call it Dum Dum, which is the name of the area. Nearby was the Dum Dum Ordnance Factory, where a Raj official invented the dumdum bullet in 1890, which helped win many colonial wars until it was banned under the Hague Convention. The rumour that British cartridges were greased with forbidden fats, which triggered the rising of 1857, could also have begun here.

The last sign of history as your cab turns towards the airport is one which says that had you carried on straight, you would have been on Jessore Road. It is part of the Grand Trunk Road, which has been on official records from the 12th century. In 1971, Indian troops and armour went down Jessore Road to liberate Bangladesh, and there began a history of awkwardness, unease and loaded silences that have marked relations between the two countries. And now, it isn't silent any more. It's loud, angry and destructive.

Earlier, Bangladesh was often reticent about India's role in the liberation war. The conflict was inevitable because in 1947, Pakistan was created with an imbalance—West Pakistan, which mostly spoke Urdu and Punjabi, wielded political power, but the Bengalis in the east had the majority of voters. Plus, the Bengali majority resented the imposition of Urdu, and the Bengali Language Movement began in the 1950s. The tipping point was the 1970 general election, in which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League, based in East Pakistan, won an absolute majority. West Pakistan was reluctant to surrender power and unrest broke out in the east, where the majority embraced their linguistic identity as Bangla-speakers, rejecting the Islamic identity on which Pakistan had been created.

On the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistan army launched Operation Searchlight in East Pakistan, hunting down students, intellectuals, activists, Bengali officials and Hindus. The next day, Mujib declared independence, the targets of Operation Searchlight formed the Mukti Bahini militia and a civil war broke out. But the Pakistan army's atrocities mounted.

On April 6, Archer Blood, US consul general in Dhaka, sent a blistering telegram to Washington, accusing his government of "moral bankruptcy" for its failure to oppose the genocide. Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger were seeking rapprochement with China with the help of Pakistan. It would end decades of animus; Kissinger hesitated to alienate the broker.

Thereupon, Indira Gandhi sent the Indian army into East Pakistan and Gen J F R Jacob secured the surrender of Pakistan after a blitzkrieg. But military intervention was only the last of India's contributions to the liberation of Bangladesh.

AP

Bangladesh redefined itself on linguistic basis, rejecting the Islamic identity Pakistan had adopted. Over time, it played down India's role in its liberation war. Now, minorities and migrants are being targeted on both sides as politics is threatening to tear apart the neighbours

It trained and armed large numbers of the Mukti Bahini. It provided a safe haven and legitimacy for Mujib's government in exile. It ignored Nixon's threats. Kolkata absorbed 10 million refugees, and some of the city's suburbs are still identified with them. Indian intellectuals, cultural figures and civil society brought the genocide to the attention of the international community. Most famously, Ravi Shankar teamed up with George Harrison for the Concert for Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden.

The India-Bangladesh compact was win-win. Bangladesh redefined itself on a linguistic basis, rejecting the Islamic identity. India gained prestige and was free of the threat of a two-front war. But over time, many Bangladeshis downplayed the role of India. Understandably so—everyone wants to own their origin story.

Bangladesh also suspected that the regional Big Brother ran the country. Sheikh Hasina's corrupt, extractive regime was believed to be operating under Delhi's protection and the last straw was that India gave her refuge. Most Bangladeshis at home and in the diaspora now believe that R&AW is using transnational repression to eliminate their leaders. Ironically, when Hasina was overthrown last year, the R&AW seems to have had no clue till the deed was done.

In India, the BJP politicised the illegal immigration of Bangladeshi Muslims in the period of the Babri demolition in 1992. Delhi's slums, especially those on the Yamuna, were repeatedly combed for Bangladeshis. More recently, action against immigrants in Assam, where deportations were conducted in the early 1960s, was systematically resumed. Combing operations have become routine in many states.

Now, immigrants, a euphemism for Muslim strangers, serve as gaming chips in every election. They were used as jujus in Bihar this year and will be trotted out in West Bengal in 2026. Why isn't the ruling party, which claims to protect Hindus everywhere, not taking strong action when a Hindu has been lynched in Bangladesh? Why is the response coming from allied organisations, rabid TV anchors and anti-social media, not the PM? The answer could be the West Bengal polls. The upheaval in Bangladesh is now mainly about nationality. But if it turns communal, it'll help the BJP to win a state it has long coveted.

India and Bangladesh have become strangers to each other, and this is triggering inhuman public reactions like the murder of Dipu Chandra Das in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, and Ramnarayan in Kerala, India—a minority person and a migrant. Expendable pawns in a rash political game that could end a relationship so close that it's like kinship.

(Views are personal)

(Tweets @pratik_k)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Science curriculum

Ref: *Isro's Bahubali raises hope* (Dec 25). The success of the Bahubali launch is deeply inspiring for students like me, as it proves that Indian science can achieve global standards. Such milestones should find immediate place in school and college curriculums, and even in competitive exams. Linking current achievements to lessons can make science more relevant and motivating.
Prajesh Paramasivan, Coimbatore

Trade outcomes

Ref: *Trade deals brighten a year of navigating diplomatic doldrums* (Dec 25). The deals signal welcome momentum, but outcomes will matter more than announcements. Timely implementation, support for smaller businesses, skills recognition, and smoother logistics are crucial. Trade gains must translate into jobs, export resilience, and services competitiveness at home.
S M Jeeva, Chennai

Grand theft

Ref: *Great Indian highway robbery* (Dec 25). This is the reason why most Indians aspire to join public services. A very large chunk of money is used to grease politicians' palms for favours—all circling back to corrupt malpractices. The term 'border bandits' is apt.
Jaikishan N, Kengeri

Unemployed graduates

Ref: *Higher standards for higher education* (Dec 25). By one estimate, about four-fifths of fresh engineering graduates are unemployed. This shows total neglect—no planning by institutions on the programmes and skills imparted. As education is commodified, market forces play havoc.
A G Rajmohan, Anantpur

Justice betrayed

Ref: *Unnao survivor to approach SC seeking justice* (Dec 25). This decision feels like a brutal betrayal to justice. The Unnao case is not an ordinary crime. The order sends a chilling message: in India, justice bends before influence. India cannot afford to tell its daughters that their lives are negotiable.
K J Haroon Basha, Tirupathur

Green thumbs

Ref: *40% farmers linked to co-ops see improved yields* (Dec 25). Women's nurturing instincts shape their approach to agriculture in ways that differ from men's. Communities must actively work to remove barriers that prevent women's participation.
Komala Brunschwig, email

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 61, No. 305 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
Atal ji's visionary leadership set an example of good governance on accountability, transparency, and inclusive development, which continues to guide India even today.

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Waiting for someone within the responsible leadership of a party in power to say even as much as 'Stop, O man of cruelty (Manishada).'

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Merry Christmas everyone! May this season bring joy, happiness, and prosperity, and fill your lives with love and compassion.

NIA to firm up common legal norms

2-day conference to focus on making counteraction future ready; Shah to inaugurate today

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH special focus on measures to strengthen prosecution-led counter-terror efforts across the country and evolve a unified legal framework governing investigations, senior police functionaries will deliberate during the two-day 'Anti-Terror Conference' beginning Friday.

Organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the conference will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. According to officials, the participating police officers will extensively share their operational experiences, best practices and deliberate over the use of emerging technologies to counter terror networks in the country.

The other points on the agenda are the mechanisms for improved international legal cooperation and strategies to dismantle terror ecosystems operating in different counter-terrorism theatres across the country. The officials said, 'During the course of the different sessions at the meet, the police officers are going to review the progress made on the consensus and recommendations adopted at last year's meet.

During the meet last year, there was a consensus among various central and state agencies and police forces on the need for stronger collaborative efforts backed by a standardised strategy to combat the menace of terrorism, particularly with respect to cybercrime and financial terrorism.

The conference had then focused on the need for a unified approach to deal with terrorism across states in the interest of national security, the officials said, adding that a consensus had then also emerged during the sessions on the importance of a holistic, well-rounded strategy, encompassing the entire national framework extending from the government down to the lowest levels of policing and investigation.

As the tone of last year's conference saw intense discussions on key terror-related topics and concerns through five thematic sessions, this year's conference may include some key announcements by the Home Minister.

The previous conference witnessed several announcements made by the Home Minister linked to far-reaching measures to make India's anti-terror fight more impactful, including the formulation of a national counter-terrorism policy and strategy to fight the entire 'ecosystem' of terrorism. The Home Minister may discuss or share some developments on the policy this year, as suggested by the sources.

Underlining the government's commitment of 'zero tolerance' against terrorism, the Home Minister last year had also emphasised the need for adoption of a coordinated approach, from police stations up to the DGP office, to deal with new challenges like terror funding through illegal drug trade and crypto.

Officials said, 'During the meet, the Home Minister is going to personally review the progress made on all these counts.' Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is in the process of finalising India's first anti-terror policy, which will provide a template for all states to combat and respond to terror-related incidents, the officials said.

KEY SESSIONS

- Collecting evidence from foreign jurisdictions
- Digital forensics and data analysis in CT investigations Effective trial management
- Addressing radicalisation and espionage
- Tackling hybrid threats to national security
- Disrupting terror financing networks through tools, techniques, and case studies
- Building future-ready counter-terrorism strategies

3-day national conference of chief secys begins today, Modi to chair

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will chair a three-day national conference of chief secretaries in New Delhi from Friday to Sunday, bringing together senior bureaucrats from states, Union Territories and key Union ministries for discussions on governance and policy implementation.

This is the fifth such conference. According to a senior government official, the meeting is aimed at strengthening Centre–state coordination and reviewing progress on key development priorities.

Chief secretaries, senior Union government officials, young district collectors and district magistrates from states and UTs are expected to participate.

Official sources said the conference will focus on five key themes — women and child welfare, school education and higher education, sports development, skill development and employability. Detailed presentations and discussions are planned, with both the Centre and the states highlighting successful initiatives, challenges, and future roadmaps for each theme.

Union Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan is likely to make a detailed presentation and formally brief participants on the conference's main agenda. States will also make thematic presentations. Kerala is expected to present on higher education initiatives, while Tamil Nadu is likely to focus on skill development and workforce-related programmes. Rajasthan is expected to make a presentation on the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, a women-centric welfare programme, along with inputs on school education and other flagship schemes.

Officials will also participate in yoga sessions, meetings, discussions and team-building exercises. These activities have been part of the format to encourage interaction among senior officials.

The first conference Modi chaired was held in Dharamshala in June 2022. It focused on strengthening Centre–state partnerships and featured discussions on implementing the National Education Policy, urban governance, and crop diversification. A special session on "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – Roadmap to 2047" was also held, along with discussions on ease of doing business, saturation of government schemes, last-mile delivery, PM Gati Shakti and capacity building.

The second conference, in Delhi in January 2023, focussed on sustained economic growth and job creation. The third conference that December emphasised ease of living, drinking water, healthcare, AI in governance, and flagship schemes. The fourth conference was also held in Delhi in December 2024 on a common development agenda and coordinated action with states.

PM presided over 1st meet in Dharamshala

The first conference Modi chaired was held in Dharamshala in 2022 with focus on strengthening Centre–state partnerships and discussions on National Education Policy, urban governance, and crop diversification. A special session on "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – Roadmap to 2047" was held, along with discussions on ease of doing business.

Vision loss rampant as India home to 'diabetic retinopathy capital'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA is not only the "diabetes capital" of the world but also the "diabetic retinopathy (DR) capital" too, said experts here. They attributed the lack of awareness among physicians and the public for a surge of this eye condition that can cause vision loss and blindness among diabetics.

According to experts, currently, 85% of diabetic patients are unaware that diabetes can impact vision and have never undergone a retinal examination. Concerned experts met recently to develop revised India-specific national guidelines for the detection and management of DR.

The new guidelines introduce a comprehensive, technology-enabled, and system-integrated approach that can change the trajectory of eye care for diabetic patients in India and aims to achieve 80% DR screening coverage among the diabetic population.

The updated guidelines announced by Vision 2020-The Right to Sight India, a national consortium of not-for-profit eye hospitals across the country, outline a tiered diagnostic and treatment pathway that ensures timely intervention at every level of care.

Speaking with this paper, Dr Rajesh Saini, President, VISION 2020, India, said, "These new guidelines, rooted in expert consensus and enriched with the latest diagnostic and management protocols, will empower healthcare providers to detect and intervene earlier, especially in underserved communities."

Dr Vishali Gupta, President at Vitreo Retinal Society India, PGI, Chandigarh, said, "DR should be included in the National Diabetes Program. It affects the economically productive age group, those in their forties and younger. By prioritising timely and systematic screening, we can identify the disease much earlier, significantly improving outcomes."

According to Dr R Kim, CMO at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, "We insist that they should get their eyes screened at least once a year."

Data show that there are an estimated 101 million diabetics in India, 136 million pre-diabetics in 2021. Approximately four to six million individuals are already at risk of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy.

The new guideline lists financial coverage for essential DR treatments under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to reduce out-of-pocket costs. It also highlights integration through ABHA IDs, strengthening referral chains, and leveraging tele-ophthalmology hubs for continuity of care.

New norms to reduce out-of-pocket costs

The new guideline lists financial coverage for essential diabetic retinopathy (DR) treatments under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to reduce out-of-pocket costs. It also highlights integration through ABHA IDs, strengthening referral chains, and leveraging tele-ophthalmology hubs for continuity of care.

ICMR bats for TB course in med syllabus

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

HIGHLIGHTING limited engagement of clinicians, faculty, and medical students in tuberculosis (TB) care, a new report by the Indian Council for Medical Research-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (ICMR-NIRT) and Women's Collective Forum has urged sweeping changes in medical education and hospital practices.

The report, released on Thursday by Union Health Minister JP Nadda, recommended making TB-related content mandatory in undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) curricula and examinations. It also called on the National Medical Commission (NMC), the statutory body that regulates medical education and professionals, to restore postgraduate respiratory medicine programs and to integrate TB care into the family medicine curriculum.

"Medical colleges play a crucial role in strengthening TB services under NTEP, but clinician and student engagement in TB management and research remains limited. Inconsistent participation of medical colleges in TB task force meetings and lack of accountability hinder progress," the report said.

The study stressed the need for medical colleges to actively participate in the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). It noted that even professionally trained clinicians often lack updated knowledge of TB guidelines, leading to occasional mismanagement. Many respiratory medicine and internal medicine faculty members, it added, prioritise non-TB specialisations such as critical care, asthma, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

"Undergraduate and postgraduate curricula also lack sufficient focus on TB, resulting in low awareness and motivation among trainee doctors. Including at least one mandatory TB-related question in medical examinations could improve knowledge and accountability," the report said.

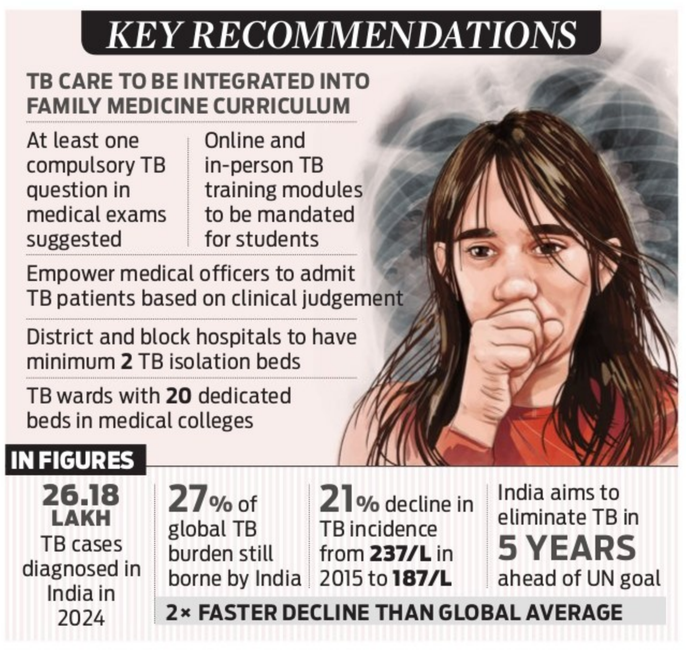
Among its recommendations, the report suggested mandatory online and in-person TB training for medical students, empowering medical officers to admit TB patients based on clinical judgment rather than rigid criteria, and establishing TB wards in medical colleges with 20 dedicated beds. It also advised district hospitals and block-level facilities to maintain at least two isolation beds each.

"These designated TB wards could be created within existing air-conditioned hospital spaces or top-floor isolation units to mitigate infection risks. Additionally, bed projections for TB admissions could guide state governments in future resource allocation," the report added.

It called for continuous advocacy campaigns within medical colleges to promote faculty, student, and health-worker participation in TB elimination. Strengthening infrastructure and clinical care in high-burden states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi was also emphasised.

The report praised India's progress in tackling TB but warned that challenges remain. In 2024, over 26.18 lakh TB patients were diagnosed in India, and the TB incidence fell by 21% from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024—almost double the global decline rate. Yet India still accounts for about 27% of global TB cases.

It suggested establishing national guidelines for TB bed projections, isolation infrastructure, and hospital-wide integration for better admissions and infection control.


KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
TB CARE TO BE INTEGRATED INTO FAMILY MEDICINE CURRICULUM
At least one compulsory TB question in medical exams suggested
Online and in-person TB training modules to be mandated for students
Empower medical officers to admit TB patients based on clinical judgement
District and block hospitals to have minimum 2 TB isolation beds
TB wards with 20 dedicated beds in medical colleges
IN FIGURES
26.18 LAKH TB cases diagnosed in India in 2024
27% of global TB burden still borne by India
21% decline in TB incidence from 237/L in 2015 to 187/L
India aims to eliminate TB in 5 YEARS ahead of UN goal
2× FASTER DECLINE THAN GLOBAL AVERAGE

New DoPT initiatives for maximum governance

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNION minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that the department of personnel and training (DoPT) has launched five major initiatives on the Good Governance Day aimed at strengthening core governance processes, supporting key stakeholder groups and equipping civil servants to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving administrative landscape.

The MoS in the PMO said, "Good governance is not an abstract ideal but a daily administrative responsibility anchored in transparency, accountability and citizen-centric service delivery."

Addressing officers and policymakers at a workshop on the Good Governance Day, observed on December 25, Singh said DoPT's first initiative is a compendium of guidelines on reservation for ex-servicemen in central government, which consolidates all existing instructions into a single, updated and user-friendly reference. "This step reflects the government's commitment to honouring the service of ex-servicemen by ensuring clarity, uniformity and timely delivery of reservation-related benefits, while also reducing ambiguity and errors in implementation across ministries and departments," he said.

The second initiative is an AI-powered recruitment rules generator tool, integrated with the Recruitment Rules Formulation, Amendment and Monitoring System (RRFAMS) portal. The minister explained that the new AI-enabled tool will reduce delays and inconsistencies by guiding users through simple questions, suggesting appropriate recruitment methods and automatically generating draft rules in the prescribed format.

The third launch is the mobile application for e-HRMS 2.0, available on Android and iOS, which places key human resource services directly in the hands of government employees. Developed as a core pillar of Mission Karmayogi, e-HRMS 2.0 integrates service records and HR processes, such as promotions and superannuation. Singh said the app will enhance transparency in personnel management.

The fourth set of initiatives relates to AI-enabled features on the iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform.

These include iGOT AI Sarthi for intelligent discovery of relevant learning resources, iGOT AI Tutor for personalised in-course support, the iGOT specialisation programme offering structured learning pathways in critical domains, and an AI-based capacity building plan tool to help ministries and states systematically map roles, competencies and training needs.

The fifth initiative is the Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab 2.0, a next-generation facility designed to produce high-quality digital learning content using augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), gamification and interactive simulations. "These initiatives reflect a future-oriented approach to governance reform, one that places citizens and civil servants at the centre of change," he said.

Gig workers deliver flash strike ahead of year-end rush, seek better wages

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AROUND 40,000 gig and platform workers across Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru went on a flash strike on Thursday, demanding better wages and a clear national policy for gig workers. The protest was called by the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT). A much larger strike has been planned for December 31 to disrupt the e-commerce delivery market during peak demand.

While the numbers were small compared to the nearly one crore gig workers in the country, the union says it was a warning shot.

Shaik Salauddin, National General Secretary of IFAT, said the workers are pushing for minimum wage protection and long-term reforms. "We are aspiring for a minimum wage of ₹35 per delivery, when the distance touches upto 4 km. At present, the delivery person gets ₹7, ₹10 or ₹15, depending on the destination. It needs to be regularised completely," he told this newspaper.

Workers currently receive extra incentives during festivals such as Diwali, Dussehra, Christmas, and New Year. But Salauddin wants that to be a "permanent feature and not restricted to specific days".

Explaining the timing of the next protest, he added, "We have decided upon December 31 as the demand for deliveries will be very high around that time, and we want the employers to take notice of the protest." The flash strike was announced just a day earlier, which affected participation. "It takes some time for the message to percolate across the country. A good number did not take part for fear of their employers blacklisting them," Salauddin said.

He explained that gig workers operate in zones within cities. "By flash strike, we mean workers in a particular zone announcing they are on strike for an hour or two and not carrying out any deliveries during the period. This is the biggest strike we have done so far," he said. In Hyderabad, more than 2,000 workers joined a bike rally in the Gachibowli–Kondapur area.

The issue of social security remains unresolved despite changes in labour laws. IFAT national president Prashant Bhagesh Sawardekar said, "The reforms have merely been announced. The implementation has not happened. If it is going to take place after ten years, it will not help the struggling workers."

HOSPITALISED
A seven-year-old boy was seriously injured after a crude bomb allegedly lying in the courtyard of an under-construction building exploded in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said on Thursday.

71 STUDENTS OF J&K FLAGGED OFF ON GUJARAT TOUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	15	Mumbai	24	16
Bhopal	27	12	Panaji	24	17
Jaipur	28	14	Patna	25	13
Amritsar	23	07	Lucknow	24	11
Chennai	22	18	Port Blair	18	07
Kolkata	26	18	Imphal	19	07
Srinagar	11	05	Chandigarh	24	08

No 1 family drove growth: Modi

Slams Cong 'first family' with 'dynastic politics' jibe after inaugurating statues of BJP stalwarts

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the country's growth can no longer be attributed to just one family, launching a veiled attack on Congress' first family and dynastic politics.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Rashtra Prerna Sthal on 101st birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi said the BJP government has freed the country from the tradition of eulogising a single family for all good that had happened.

He said the BJP government is honouring and acknowledging the contributions of everyone irrespective of political affiliations.

"Congress and its allies politically kept the BJP untouchable. The BJP's values teach us to respect everyone. (Former PM) Narasimha Rao and (former President) Pranab Mukherjee were awarded Bharat Ratna. Our government honoured Mulayam Singh Yadav and Tarun Gogoi with national awards," he said, adding that no one could expect such recognition from the Congress or the SP.

He said the NDA government is working on Dr BR Ambedkar's principles and taking them to people through 'Panchteerthas'. The PM claimed that while previous Congress and SP governments tried to erase the legacy of Baba Saheb, BJP drew pride in shattering the wall of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir by working towards realising his resolves.

Modi referred to the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first deputy PM and Union home minister of independent India, who completed the daunting task of integrating various states with India. He claimed that Patel was not given the stature in history which he deserved.

"The 'Statue of Unity' built in Gujarat now stands as a reminder of his great contributions," the PM said. Modi said the dynastic politics now faces insecurity. "Consequently, the dynasts tend to cut the line of their contemporaries short to keep their relevance intact," he added.

'Rashtra Prerna Sthal used to be garbage dump'
The Prime Minister said a missile used in the 'Operation Sindoor' is now being manufactured in Lucknow's defence corridor. He added that that the 30-acre site, where the Rashtra Prerna Sthal was developed, used to be a "garbage dump" for decades before being cleared in the last three years. Rashtra Prerna Sthal features 65-feet bronze statues of BJP icons Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, symbolising their contributions to India's political thought, nation-building, and public life.

Praising CM Yogi Adityanath for giving "good governance" to UP, Modi said BJP's double-engine government has greatly benefited the state. "UP is carving out its own distinct identity in 21st-century India. I am fortunate to be an MP from Uttar Pradesh.

The hardworking people of UP are writing a new future. Today, UP is discussed for its development unlike earlier when it was known for poor law and order," the PM said. "The grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham are creating a new global identity for UP. Places like Rashtra Prerna Sthal are also becoming part of this new identity."

The PM said a missile used in the 'Operation Sindoor' is now being manufactured in Lucknow's defence corridor. He added that that the 30-acre site, where the Rashtra Prerna Sthal was developed, used to be a "garbage dump" for decades before being cleared in the last three years. Rashtra Prerna Sthal features 65-feet bronze statues of BJP icons Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, symbolising their contributions to India's political thought, nation-building, and public life.

Yogi said the legacy of Mookerjee, Upadhyaya and Vajpayee is being carried forward by PM Modi to create a self-reliant and developed nation.

Kushwaha MLAs skip 'litti-chokha' party of boss, but go & meet BJP chief

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ALL is not well within the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), led by Rajya Sabha member and former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha.

Tension within the RLM came overground after three of its four MLAs were conspicuously noticed by their absence at the litti-chokha party hosted by Kushwaha at his residence in Patna on Wednesday.

If this was not a clear enough signal, they were spotted holding a meeting with BJP's national working president, Nitin Nabin, in New Delhi the same day. The RLM is a junior partner in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which registered a landslide victory in the recent Bihar Assembly election.

Expectedly, the absence of MLAs—Madhav Anand, Rameshwar Mahto, and Alok Singh—from Kushwaha's party created a political buzz in Bihar. The matter came to light when Anand, MLA from the Madhubani constituency, shared his photo with Nabin on his social media account, in which Mahto and Singh, MLAs from Bajpatti and Dinara, respectively, were also seen.

A senior RLM leader, however, tried to downplay the significance of the meeting. He said that there was nothing unusual about it. "It was a courtesy meeting with Nitin Nabin after his appointment as the BJP's national working president. There is no political significance of the meeting," the leader said.

The RLM chief has been accused of promoting dynastic politics by his own party leaders, who were denied ministerial berths in the new NDA government. These MLAs are reportedly displeased with him for pushing his son Deepak Prakash as a minister in the Nitish Kumar cabinet, who eventually got the Panchayati Raj Department. Prakash is neither a member of the legislative assembly nor of the legislative council.

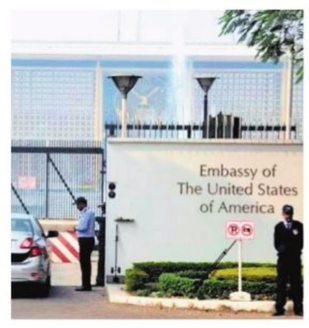
The fourth MLA of the RLM is Kushwaha's spouse, Snehlata Kushwaha.

DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI
Our correspondent in Uttarakhand
narendrasethi@newindianexpress.com

US embassy honours SDRF for rescue ops

The US embassy has recognised the service of the Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel by awarding them a special memento and certificate. This honour specifically acknowledges the swift rescue operations conducted in challenging conditions, leading to rescue of American tourists and other foreign nationals trapped during expeditions. SDRF commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi said, "The recognition is for successful operations like rescuing two foreign trekkers from Mount Chaukhamba in Chamoli and other rescue operations in high-altitude areas like Gangotri."



Dhami lauds Vajpayee's vision at sports festival

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami concluded the Sansad Khel Mahotsav-2025, honouring winners and paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He emphasised that the former PM envisioned empowering youth through sports, a vision now realised through this festival. Dhami noted PM Narendra Modi's guidance and highlighted Uttarakhand's sporting success, including 103 medals at the 38th National Games. Detailing steps under a 'sports legacy plan', the CM mentioned 23 sports academies, a sports university in Haldwani, and a women's sports college in Lohaghat. The government is also awarding out-of-turn jobs to medal winners.

Ex-CM Rawat protests AI-generated video

Senior Congress leader and former CM Harish Rawat staged a protest march on Thursday, targeting the BP headquarters over circulation of an AI-generated video purportedly showing him in poor light. Police put barricades near the BJP office to stop what Rawat said his 'solitary march', leading to heated exchanges between Congress workers and police. He took his protest to the street, sitting on a 'dharna'alleging that the fabricated video, created using AI, was spread on social media platforms with the intent to disseminate falsehood. "This act is a malicious attempt to spread lies using advanced technology against political opponents," he said.

Kashmir shawl trader beaten up in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A Kashmiri shawl vendor was allegedly assaulted, robbed, and issued expulsion threats by a group of Bajrang Dal activists in Kashipur of Udham Singh Nagar district, prompting the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) to write to the Uttarakhand DGP seeking action.

The victim, Bilal Ahmed Ganie of Kupwara, has been selling shawls in US Nagar for a decade. "Despite his long presence and peaceful conduct, Bilal was assaulted, his stock was looted, and was asked to leave the state," JKSA national convenor Nasir Khuehami told this newspaper. "Such acts have created an atmosphere of fear and terror not only for the victim but also for other Kashmiri traders," Khuehami added.

JKSA said Bilal has filed a complaint at Goshala police chowki, but no formal FIR has been registered yet. The association urged DGP Deepam Seth to ensure registration of an FIR and arrest of the accused. "Kashmiris are not outsiders in India but equal citizens... Targeting innocent Kashmiri traders only deepens alienation and emboldens hostile forces that seek to weaken India's social fabric," Khuehami said.

'Anguished celebration' of X-mas in Assam day after school vandalisation

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

ALLEN Brooks, spokesman of the Assam Christian Forum, said that there was an anguished celebration on Thursday as insecurity among people was overwhelming, a day after the members of two right-wing organisations destroyed decorations at a diocese school.

The Nalbari police on Thursday arrested four persons – three from Viswa Hindu Parishad and one from Bajrang Dal – based on a written complaint lodged by Fr Baiju Sebastian, Principal of St Mary's English School, Panigaon, in Nalbari district.

According to the complaint lodged by the principal, some unidentified miscreants had unlawfully entered the premises and vandalised the campus, causing damage to outer decorations and other articles. Later, the said articles were also set on fire.

In social media videos, the attackers were heard chanting "Jai Shree Ram" slogans and warning the school not to hold Christmas on its premises. Later, they targeted shops selling Christmas items in Nalbari town and set fire to a few items. Condemning the incidents, the forum said, "Videos circulating on social media clearly identify the perpetrators... This act wounds religious sentiments, spreads hatred, and violates constitutional rights to freedom of religion, threatening Assam's peace and harmony." It added, "This is not Assam's culture—and not true to Assam's ethos of unity inspired by Srimanta Shankar Dev. We urge the government and the society to uphold secularism."

In the rest of Northeast, Christmas was celebrated with pomp and gaiety. Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram are Christian-majority states, while Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have sizeable Christian populations.

Cong distances itself from Pawar in Pune civic polls

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a political twist ahead of the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation elections on January 15, the Maharashtra Congress has decided to contest independently, distancing itself from the Sharad Pawar-led NCP SP amid reports that the two Pawar factions may join hands.

However, NCP SP leader Supriya Sule clarified that no final proposal has been received regarding an alliance with Ajit Pawar's faction. Yet, sources revealed that two rounds of meetings have already taken place between the two Pawar parties, with a final announcement expected in the coming days.

Congress Legislative Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar called the potential alliance "unholy". "If both the NCPs join hands, then Congress will not be part of this unholy alliance for the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation elections," he said. He added that Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar must sever ties with the BJP and step down from the government before seeking Congress support.

Wadettiwar's remarks highlighted the deep ideological divide. "NCP enjoys power with the communal forces in the state and central government, but it wants the support of secular forces to defeat the BJP in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, which is not possible at all. The Congress party is firm in its secular and progressive ideology and will not compromise it in any way. Therefore, the Congress leadership will contest these two polls on its own and show our strength," he said.

The NCP shared power with Congress for more than 15 years, but it never tied up with them for local body polls. Local polls are fought separately to develop and nurture local leadership —Supriya Sule

On the other hand, Sule underlined the distinction between state-level politics and local body elections, stating, "The NCP shared power with the Congress for more than 15 years, but it never tied up with the Congress for local body polls. Local polls are fought separately to develop and nurture local leadership. This time, we also conveyed to our cadre and local leaders to form the alliance based on the ground situation in their respective areas. There should not be party politics at the local level because the local polls are completely different than state and Lok Sabha polls."

Meanwhile, the reports of a potential NCP merger have caused ripples within the party. Sharad Pawar-led NCP SP's Pune city president and former Mayor of Pune, Jagtap, resigned in protest, citing ideological differences. Sources suggest he is likely to join Congress.

'Raj auctioned 50 new mining leases in Aravalli'

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE political dispute over the Aravalli range in Rajasthan shows no signs of abating, even as the Modi government has assured that no new mining leases will be granted in the ancient mountain system.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma called the Centre's decision "historic," while former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot dismissed it, saying the announcement is nothing new.

In a post on X, Sharma accused the Congress of protecting the "illegal mining mafia for decades" and misleading the public with "lies" and "confusion." He urged the party to "introspect and abandon negative politics."

Gehlot, however, questioned the contradiction between the Centre's statements and the Rajasthan government's actions. He pointed out that Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has repeatedly said that "no mining—above or below 100 metres—would be allowed in the Aravalli range until the Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) is finalised". Yet, he alleged that the BJP-led state government has auctioned 50 new mining leases in the Aravalli region, potentially in violation of Supreme Court directions.

The state Congress chief, Govind Singh Dotasra, and the Leader of the Opposition, Tikaram Jully, have also intensified their criticism. Dotasra announced protests across 19 districts at the district, block, and state levels, supported by Congress frontal organisations.

The NSUI is holding a march on Friday under the "Save Aravalli, Save Life" campaign, with former deputy chief minister and Congress national general secretary Sachin Pilot scheduled to participate.

Media reports have highlighted discrepancies between the Centre's claims and official documents. Bhupender Yadav recently stated that only 277.9 sq. km. would be eligible for mining after the revised definition of the Aravalli range. In contrast, a note attached to the Central Empowered Committee's 2024 report shows the existing mining area in the Rajasthan Aravalli hills at 2,339 sq. km., with a draft state Vision Document–2047 proposing expansion to 4,000 sq. km. to promote "responsible mining" and economic development.

Responding to the allegations, Yadav said misinformation was being spread. "A scientific management plan will first be prepared and evaluated by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, with sustainability as the key criterion for any future decisions," he said. He added that the Aravalli issue "has been pending before the top court since Congress government's tenure, with illegal mining being core concern," noting that "there was no uniform identification of the Aravallis at the district level and no consensus on what constituted the Aravallis."

Centre okays 260 MW hydro power project on Chenab in J&K's Kishtwar

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved the Dulhasti Stage-II hydroelectric project (260 MW) in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, valued at ₹3,277.45 crore. This project will utilise water from the Chenab River, part of the Indus Water Basin.

The EAC noted that the project's parameters have been planned in compliance with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960. However, the treaty has been suspended effective April 23, 2025, following the Pahalgam terrorist attack. It is an extension of the existing 390 MW Dulhasti Stage-I Hydro Electric Project (Dulhasti Power Station), which has been successfully operating since its commissioning in 2007 by NHPC Ltd.

PROJECT DETAILS

Extension of **390 MW** Dulhasti Stage-I, operational since 2007	**3,685**-m-long tunnel (8.5-m diameter) to divert water from Stage-I	Underground powerhouse with 2×130 MW units
		PROPOSED CAPACITY: 260 MW

The new project will draw water from the Dulhasti Power Station (Stage I) through a separate 3,685-meter-long tunnel with a diameter of 8.5 meters, leading to the construction of a horseshoe pondage for Stage II. In addition to constructing the pondage, the project will include a surge shaft, a pressure shaft, and an underground powerhouse equipped with two units of 130 MW each, resulting in a total installed capacity of 260 MW and an annual energy generation.

The total land requirement for the project is estimated at 60.3 hectares. This project will require 8.27 hectares of private land from two villages, Benzwar and Palmar, in Kishtwar district.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Heir steps into B'desh's shifting political sand

After years abroad, Tarique Rahman navigates legacy, exile & power

DHAKA

THE heir to Bangladesh's longtime ruling family and a leader of its most powerful political party, Tarique Rahman returned home after 17 years in exile ahead of key elections.

Rahman, 60, an aspiring prime minister who has lived in London since he fled Bangladesh in 2008 over what he called a politically motivated persecution, arrived in Dhaka on Thursday. Acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), he is expected to take the reins from his ailing mother, 80-year-old former prime minister Khaleda Zia.Despite years of ill health and imprisonment, Zia vowed in November to campaign in the February 12, 2026 elections.

But she was hospitalised soon after that pledge, and she has been in intensive care ever since. The elections will be the first since a mass uprising last year ended the 15-year hardline rule of Sheikh Hasina, who was at odds with the BNP.

Since Hasina's fall from power, Rahman has been acquitted of the most serious charge against him: a life sentence handed down in absentia for a 2004 grenade attack on a Hasina rally. He had denied the charges. BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has promised Rahman will "arrive among us on the soil of Dhaka" on December 25, which he said will be a "fantastic day."

Rahman, often pictured beside his mother on BNP banners, has long been groomed for leadership. In June, he met in London with Muhammad Yunus, the 85-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner leading the interim government until the February elections.

Rahman, known in Bangladesh as Tarique Zia, carries a political name that has defined his life. Born in 1967 when the country was still East Pakistan, he was briefly detained as a child during the 1971 independence war. The BNP hails him as "one of the youngest prisoners of war". His father, Ziaur Rahman, was an army commander.

Tarique Rahman, son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and Bangladesh Nationalist Party's heir apparent waves to supporters after his arrival in Dhaka | AFP

Ziaur Rahman gained influence months after a 1975 coup in which Sheikh Hasina's father — founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was murdered. That fuelled lifelong tensions between the Zia and Hasina families, dubbed the "Battle of the Begums"— "begum" meaning a powerful woman.

Ziaur Rahman was assassinated when his son was 15. The younger Rahman grew up in his mother's political orbit, as Zia went on to become the country's first female prime minister, alternating her terms in power with Hasina.

Rahman briefly studied international relations at Dhaka University before entering politics at 23, joining the BNP in its fight against military ruler Hussain Muhammad Ershad, according to his party.

Still, Rahman's career has been dogged by allegations of nepotism and mismanagement. A 2006 US embassy cable described him as the BNP's "heir apparent" who "inspires few but unnerves many".

Other cables labelled him a "symbol of kleptocratic government and violent politics" and accused him of being "phenomenally corrupt" — claims he rejected as politically motivated.

PTI

Police offer reward after Hindu home arson

Dhaka: Bangladesh police announced a reward for information on attackers who set fire to a Hindu-owned house near Chattogram, amid growing mob violence. The house, owned by two Qatar-based workers, was torched on Tuesday night, but all eight family members escaped unharmed. Police said five suspects have been arrested and a special security team deployed following a series of arson attacks on Hindu homes. The violence has drawn concern from rights groups and international observers.

Find courage for direct Ukraine talks, says Pope, shares concern about Gaza

VATICAN CITY

POPE Leo XIV on Thursday urged Russia and Ukraine to find the "courage" to hold direct talks and spoke of the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza in his first Christmas message.

The US pope, who was elected by fellow cardinals in May after the death of his predecessor pope Francis, also condemned the "senselessness" of war and the "rubble and open wounds" it leaves behind.

Speaking to a crowd of some 26,000 people in St Peter's Square, the pope called for "solidarity with and acceptance of those in need" in Europe — a possible reference to growing anti-immigration sentiment on the continent. "Let us pray in a particular way for the tormented people of Ukraine," he said.

"May the parties involved, with the support and commitment of the international community, find the courage to engage in sincere, direct and respectful dialogue," he added.

Russian and Ukrainian officials have spoken separately in recent weeks to US negotiators about proposals to end the war started by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Tens of thousands have been killed, eastern Ukraine decimated and millions forced to flee their homes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy this week outlined key points of a plan to end the conflict after US talks. But Russian President Vladimir Putin has so far shown no willingness to compromise, doubling down on his hardline demands.

In his first Christmas homily as pontiff, Leo addressed the dismal conditions in Gaza, where hundreds of thousands are still living in temporary shelters in wintry conditions weeks after a fragile ceasefire took hold.

"How... can we not think of the tents in Gaza, exposed for weeks to rain, wind and cold," the pope said, adding that the territory's inhabitants "have nothing left and have lost everything." The UN has said an estimated 1.3 million people currently need shelter assistance in Gaza and has warned of the increasing risk of hypothermia as temperatures dip.

"The war, in all its forms, has been harsh on everyone living on this land," Elias al-Jalda, a Palestinian Christian from Gaza, told AFP after attending a Christmas mass at Gaza's only Roman Catholic Church late on Wednesday. "We hope this year will mark the beginning of a new phase — one defined by a complete end to the war and the return of life to Gaza," said Jalda, one of dozens attending the mass. Sarah Mullally, who becomes head of the Church of England next month, addressed the issue of immigration directly in her Christmas sermon on Thursday. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

Repairs at Flood-Hit Heritage Site

Repairs and reinforcement work are planned at the Ombilin Cultural Heritage Site in Sawahlunto, West Sumatra, after flash floods damaged key infrastructure. Culture Minister Fadli Zon said priority would be given to a damaged bridge and railway track, part of the UNESCO-listed site. Officials are assessing measures such as strengthening or elevating structures to manage heavy rainfall and prevent future flood damage. Community groups have opposed demolishing the historic Anai Valley railway bridge, urging its preservation.

Banquet Hall Fire Forces Evacuation

A fire broke out at a hotel banquet hall in Bukit Katil, Melaka, during a company dinner on Wednesday night, forcing nearly 1,400 guests to evacuate. All exited safely, but one worker was hospitalised for smoke inhalation. Firefighters extinguished the blaze early Thursday, with limited damage reported, and hotel facilities remained operational.

N Korea reveals advances in N-submarine project

SEOUL

Kim Jong Un visits a shipyard as he inspects a nuclear-powered submarine under construction at an undisclosed location in North Korea | AP

NORTH Korea on Thursday displayed apparent progress in the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine, with state media photos showing a largely completed hull, as leader Kim Jong Un condemned rival South Korea's push to acquire the technology.

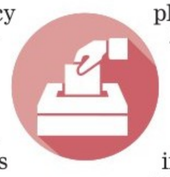
North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited a shipyard to inspect the construction of what the North describes as an 8,700-ton-class nuclear-propelled submarine, which the leader has called a crucial step in the modernization and nuclear armament of North Korea's navy. The North has indicated it plans to arm the submarine with nuclear weapons, calling it a "strategic guided missile submarine" or a "strategic nuclear attack submarine."

During the visit, Kim described South Korea's efforts to acquire its own nuclear-powered submarine, which have been backed by US President Donald Trump, as an "offensive act" that severely violates the North's security and maritime sovereignty.n He said that the South Korean plan further underscores the need to advance and nuclear-arm North Korea's navy, and claimed that the completion of his nuclear-powered submarine would be an "epoch-making" change in strengthening its nuclear war deterrent against what he called enemy threats. The agency did not specify when Kim visited the shipyard but released photos showing him inspecting a huge, burgundy-colored vessel, coated with what appears to be anti-corrosion paint, under construction inside an assembly hall with senior officials and his daughter. It was the first time North Korean state media had released images of the submarine since March, when they mostly showed the lower sections of the vessel. It was unclear how close North Korea is to completing the vessel, but a largely finished hull suggests key components, including the engine and possibly the reactor, are already in place, said Moon Keun-sik of Seoul's Hanyang University. *AP*

Myanmar sets late January date for final election round

YANGON

MYANMAR's junta will stage the third and final round of its heavily restricted elections on January 25, a statement said Thursday, just days before polls open for the first batch of ballots. Democracy watchdogs say the junta-run vote is a charade to rebrand the rule of the military, which snatched power in a 2021 coup triggering a civil war that has seen much of the country captured by rebel factions.



Democratic figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi remains jailed since the putsch, her massively popular party dissolved, and the United Nations has slated the junta for a sweeping pre-election dissent crackdown.

The first round of voting is due on Sunday, with a second bout of ballots due to be cast on January 11. The junta-stacked Union Election Commission said in a statement a third round will take place in 63 of the country's 330 townships on January 25.

Myanmar's military has ruled the Southeast Asian country for most of its post-independence history, before a 10-year interlude saw a civilian government take the reins in a burst of optimism and reform. After Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy swept the 2020 elections, military chief Min Aung Hlaing seized power, alleging widespread voter fraud. *AP*

DOCUMENT LOST

My Client **Smt. VEENA B.V.** W/o. S Harish, tenant/lessee of Shop No. 44, BANGKOK PLAZA, HANUMANTHAPPA ROAD, GANDHINAGAR, BANGALORE 560010 and now she lost/misplaced one of the related document of the above said Shop No.44, ORIGINAL DEED OF LEASE DATED: 15/10/1990 BETWEEN HOTEL HINDUSTAN AND INDIRA RANI RELAN, IN RESPECT OF SHOP NO 44, BANGKOK PLAZA, HANUMANTHAPPA ROAD, GANDHINAGAR, BANGALORE 560010, is lost/misplaced and the same is not traceable, lodged the online police complaint vide Acknowledgement No.1974301/2025, dated:24-12-2025. Any person/s find the said original ORIGINAL DEED OF LEASE DATED : 15/10/1990 pertaining to the said Shop No.44, shall return the same to the undersigned or to my clients within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Sd/- SHIVAPRAKASH K N B.A., LL.B. Advocate, SRS LAW ASSOCIATES
Mobile : 9341824536 / 9066161929 / 9620112222,
Place : Bangalore

WESTERN RAILWAY
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites **E-Tender No: WR-MMCT-SnT-STTD-34-2025 dtd. 22/12/2025. Name of Work:** Upgradation of manual announcement system to automatic announcement at stations of non-suburban sections and replacement of Public Address System with IP based Public Address System installed at Churchgate, Mahalakshmi, Dadar, Andheri, Ram Mandir, Goregaon, Borivali & Nallasopara stations of **Churchgate-Virar section** of Mumbai Division on age cum condition basis along with Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) after warranty. **Cost of Work:** ₹11,85,02,769.36 **Bid Security:** ₹7,42,500/-. **Date & Time for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents:** Till 16.01.2026,15:00 hrs. **Date & Time for Opening of E- Tender:** At 15:30 hrs. on 16.01.2026. The tender can be viewed at website **http: //www.ireps.gov.in.** 0925

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Smt.VANAJAKSHI** W/o Kodandaramareddy, Aged About 51 Years, Residing at Koppa Village, Jigani Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105 who is the present owner of below mentioned property and she was having Original Sale Deed dated 21.11.2006 vide Doc.No.ANK-1-27109/2006-, 07 of Book-1 Registered in the office of the Sub Register Anekal and Original Sale Deed Dated 28.01.2013, vide Doc.No.CMP-1-07022/2012-13 of Book-1 registered in the office of Sub-registrar Chamarajapete (Basavanagudgi) Bengaluru in respect of Site No.535, Katha No.535/535, PID No. 150200100400202004 in 'Vasavi Shelters' measuring (2400 sq fts) Situated at 'Kallabalu Village', Jigani Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 560105 and the aforesaid Original Documents have been lost/misplaced while travelling by bus on 15.10.2025 by near Bannerghatta from Koppa to Bannerghatta Bengaluru, to Going to apple EC At Sub Registrar office Bannerghatta and she has made best efforts in tracing the same, but efforts were in vain, Further he lodged a police complaint in this regarding on 24.12.2025, E Lost Report No.1975165/2025, if anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 7 days from the date this publication at the office address given below.

Santhosh Kumar. B.R., M.A., LLB, Advocate, 'S.B.R., Law Associates',
No.83, Begihalli, Jigani Post,
Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 560079.
Mobile No. 9916267452, 7892275209

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560 001
O.A. No. 758 /2022

In the Matter of : State Bank of India, RACPC - Koramangala Branch, Bengaluru ...Applicant Bank
And
Mr. Nishith Rao & Another
....Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RBD Act, 1993 (as amended)

To:
1.Mr. Nishith Rao S/o. Sri Niranjan Rao H., R/at: House Near Durga Parameshwari Temple, Parkala, Herga, Udupi District:
Also at : Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd., Municipal Plot 23, 5th Cross, Raghavendra Layout, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560 022, PAN : ANLUPR2186B,Mob : 8628773465.
2. M/s. Vivansaa Baalsam (Firm), Registered Off. : No. 88, First Floor, 17th Cross, 14th Main, IV Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 034. (Represented by its Partner and as developer/builders for the owners) **....Defendants**

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended), against the Defendants for a sum of **Rs.33,05,846/-** as mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other relief's.

You are hereby required to show within 30 days of publication of summons/notice or on **04.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 30.09.2025

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 ,
Bangalore- 560 001.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560 001
O.A. No. 471 /2024

In the Matter of : State Bank of India, RACPC - Koramangala Branch, Bengaluru ...Applicant
And
Mr. Srikanth S. V. Meka & Another
....Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RBD Act, 1993 (as amended)

To:
1.Mr. Srikanth S. V. Meka, Aged about 44 years S/o. Sri Meka Chiranjeevi Rao, R/o. B-202, Silver County Apartment, Off. Harlur Road, Kudlu, Near KSRP Camp, Bommanhalli, Bengaluru - 560 068, PAN: ALZPM7088C, Mob:9972411449, E-mail: srikant4meka@gmail.com
2. M/s. Vivansaa Baalsam (Firm), Represented by its Partner: Mr.Swapnil Agarwal , Registered Off. : No. 88, First Floor, 17th Cross, 14th Main, IV Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 034. Website: https://www.thevivansaa.com (M): +917676762288/Phone: +91-8025724145 (GPA Holder & Builder) **....Defendants**

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended), against the Defendants for a sum of **Rs.34,95,279/-** as mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other relief's.

You are hereby required to show within 30 days of publication of summons/notice or on **04.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 30.09.2025

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 ,
Bangalore- 560 001.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.2031/2024

CANARA BANK ...Applicant
Versus
Sri Santhosha & Another
...Defendants

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendants :
1. Sri Santhosha S/o. Shivalingappa, Proprietor of M/s. Sarathy Tours 'N' Traveles, Aged about 44 years. At: No. 55/1, 2nd Cross, Sanman Deluxe Lodge Building, R. K. Puram, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560 009.
2. Smt. C. S. Rathnamma W/o. Santhosha, Both 1 & 2 R/at: 19/45, Bairaveshwara Nilaya, Gollarahalli, Bangalore - 560 091.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.71,58,969/-** (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty nine Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **20.01.2026 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **17.10.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560 001
O.A. No. 742/2024

In the Matter of : State Bank of India, RACPC Basavanagudi ,Bengaluru
..Applicant Bank
And
Mr. Rajeevan Kuttikrishnan S/o. Kutty Krishnnan & Another **....Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RBD Act, 1993 (as amended)

To:
1. Mr. Rajeevan Kuttikrishnan Aged 57 years, S/o. Kutty Krishnnan, Flat No. 709, Alhabtoor Building, A AL Nadha, Dubai (UAE)
Also at: C/o. Sri Kuttykrishnan, No. 733, Subrarmniya Nagar, 2nd Stage, Hebbal, Mysore - 570 016. PAN: BMGPK2391K (M) +9714-2208069/+971506764386/ +971558896386 E- mail :rknair79 @yahoo.com
2. M/s. Gulam Mustfa Enterprises Pvt Ltd., Regd. Off; GM Pearl, No. 6, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru (CIN: U70100KA1982PTC004720)
....Defendants

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended), against the Defendants for a sum of **Rs.42,92,434/-** as mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other relief's. The above mentioned Defendant/s is/ are therefore hereby directed appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal in person or through an Advocate duly authorised agent in support of his/her defense, within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 06.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.**, as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 14.11.2025

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2,
Bangalore- 560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that, my client Sri. V. Rangarajulu S/o Late Venkatesan.N Aged about 62 Years, R/at No.121, 1st cross, New BEL Road, AGS Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094, further on 20/12/2025 my client has lost the original Release Deed dated 20/09/2024, Registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yashwanthpur, Bengaluru, vide document.No.YPR-1-06420-2024-25, with respect to the immovable property bearing Site No.6, the Layout formed in Converted survey No.17/2 and 18/3 situated at MSR Nagar, Chikkamarnahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to west 40 feet and North to South 30 Feet and Bounded on East by : Site No.05, West by : Site No. 07, North by : Site No.14 and South by : 20 Feet Road. Hence, on 23/12/2025 my client lodged written complaint before the Bengaluru City Police vide Lost Report. No. 1971574/2025. If any person found said document kindly inform/hand over the same within seven days to my client. Anybody having any claims or rights over the property can write to the undersigned. If any parties misused the said document or if any transaction has took place with respect to said property, my client is not liable to such illegal transactions.

BHOJARAJA, Advocate
KAR.2840/2008
No.2/1, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, Palace Plaza, Palace Guttahalli, Begaluru-560020.
Mobile. 9980030878

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

e-Tender Notice No.DRM/Works/ SC/180-187/2025/OT, Dt: 23.12.2025 PUBT652

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on dt: 21.01.2026.

S.No.: 01 e-Tender No.: 180_CR_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SC-KZJ Section: Proposed safety related yard improvements and upgradation works at various yards under SSE/P.Way/SC section. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 6,47,50,281/- **EMD (₹):** 4,73,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 02 e-Tender No.: 181_CR_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** WD-SC-KZJ Section: Proposed safety related yard improvements and upgradation works at various yards under SSE/P.Way/SNF section. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 4,51,30,374/- **EMD (₹):** 3,75,700/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 03 e-Tender No.: 182_CR_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SC-KZJ Section: Proposed safety related yard improvements and upgradation works at various yards under SSE/P.Way/CR/KZJ section. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 4,56,06,150/- **EMD (₹):** 3,78,100/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 04 e-Tender No.: 183_N_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** KZJ-BPQ Section: SW 1) Proposed ancillary works for LC No. 33 at Km.307/15-13 (RUB 81A) Jacketing of approach retaining walls etc. between KOLR-PTKP stations. SW 2) Proposed ancillary works for LC No. 30 at km. 311/15-17 (RUB 74 A) Jacketing of approach retaining walls etc. between OEA-PTKP stations under Sr.DEN/North/SC Jurisdiction. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 5,38,39,042/- **EMD (₹):** 4,19,200/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 05 e-Tender No.: 184_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: SW 1) SSE/P.Way/UDGR jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. SW 2) SSE/P.Way/PRLI jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 3,25,14,980/- **EMD (₹):** 3,12,600/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 06 e-Tender No.: 185_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW 1) VKB-PRLI Section: SSE/P.Way/BIDR jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. SW 2) BIDR-GR Section: SSE/P.Way/HMBD jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,72,84,458/- **EMD (₹):** 2,86,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 07 e-Tender No.: 186_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** PDPL-NZB Section: SW 1) SSE/P.Way/ARMU jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. SW 2) SSE/P.Way/KRMR jurisdiction - Proposed safety related yard improvement and upgradation works at various yards. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 3,00,63,943/- **EMD (₹):** 3,00,400/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45 (Days)

S.No.: 08 e-Tender No.: 187_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** Repairs to Road surfaces and Service buildings and Painting to FOBs under ADEN/BIDR jurisdiction. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,72,02,313/- **EMD (₹):** 2,86,100/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 06

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.
2. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, can be Participated and can view any modifications if any.
3. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.
4. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Sr.DEN/Co-ordination/ Secunderabad
A2105

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT
NAGERCOIL CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Roc No: E3 / 5095 / 2023 **E-Tendering Tender Notice** Dated: 24.12.2025

Nagercoil City Municipal Corporation invites Bids from eligible Bidders through e procurement portal for **"Construction of a Modern Integrated Bus Terminal at Nagercoil City Municipal Corporation with Operation and Maintenance for the period of 5 years".** Bidders shall submit their Bids through online e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in** up to 03.00 PM (as per the time in the server clock of the tender portal) on 10/02/2026. The Bids will be opened through online at 3.30 PM. on the same day (10.02.2026)

Sl No	Name of Work	Bid Value (Rs. In lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. In lakh)	Period of availability of bid document	Date and time of Bid opening	Period of Completion
1	Construction of a Modern Integrated Bus Terminal at Nagercoil City Municipal Corporation with Operation and Maintenance for the period of 5 years		63.53	26.12.2025 to 10.02.2026 up to 3.00 PM	10.02.2026 at 3.30 PM	18 Months
	Estimated cost for Construction	5850.00				
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	503.00				

1. The Bid documents shall be made available from **26.12.2025.**
2. The Bid documents may be downloaded from the website **(https://tntenders.gov.in)** at free of cost up to **3.00 PM on 10.02.2026.**
3. Bids through e-submission shall only be accepted.
4. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **07.01.2026 at 11.00 AM** in the Office of the Nagercoil City Municipal Corporation, Nagercoil - 629 001.

DIPR / 6845 / TENDER / 2025

Commissioner
Nagercoil City Municipal Corporation

₹10 LAKH monetary threshold Sebi has set for simplified documentation process for issuance of duplicate securities

2025 sees highest no. of trade pacts

FTA deals likely to unlock trade and investment opportunities worth $260 bn in coming years

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

AMID India's most intense free trade agreement (FTA) push yet, with 2025 marking the highest number of trade pact signings in a single year. During the year, India signed three major FTAs, while the agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) coming into force.

Collectively, these deals are expected to unlock trade and investment opportunities worth nearly $260 billion in the coming years.

However, despite aggressive FTA drive, India continues to run a combined trade deficit of nearly $17 billion with these partner regions in 2024-25. India's trade deficit stands at $20.47 billion with EFTA and $2.48 billion with Oman, even as it enjoys a surplus with the UK and New Zealand. The agreements offer tariff-free access across sectors ranging from engineering goods and textiles to pharmaceuticals, seafood and processed foods—giving exporters an opportunity to move up the value chain. Diversifying export markets has emerged as a key priority for India as it seeks to cushion impact of higher tariffs, particularly from the US. As per the commerce ministry, India has fast-tracked trade negotiations with several regions to minimise fallout from US tariff hikes.

TILTING THE SCALE

India's trade balance ($bn)

COUNTRIES	FY23	FY24	FY25
UK	2.44	4.51	5.97
Oman	-3.43	-0.09	-2.48
New Zealand	0.07	0.20	0.12
EFTA	-14.81	-20.11	-20.48
Total deficit	-15.73	-15.49	-16.87

EFTA: European Free Trade Association

Source: Min of commerce

LOOKING TO LOWER DEFICIT

India continues to run trade deficit of nearly **$17** bn with these partner regions in 2024-25

India's trade deficit stands at **$20.47** bn with EFTA and **$2.48** bn with Oman

India enjoys a surplus with the UK and New Zealand

Diversifying export markets has emerged as a key priority for India

The first FTA concluded in 2025 was the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the UK in July. The pact aims to double bilateral trade to over $100 billion by 2030 from about $56 billion at present. India enjoys a goods trade surplus of $5.96 billion with the UK in FY25. Under the pact, the UK will provide duty-free access for nearly 99% of Indian exports across key sectors such as textiles, automotive components, footwear and pharmaceuticals.

Finish Line 2025

Following the imposition of steep US tariffs in August, the Indian government stepped up trade negotiations with several countries and regions, including the US. While the India-EFTA FTA was implemented in October, the year concluded with the signing of FTAs with New Zealand and Oman in December. The India-EFTA pact alone is likely to unlock $100 billion in investments over 15 years.

"Exports from India to Oman that currently face a 5% duty and are valued at $3.64 billion will get zero-duty access under the proposed FTA, boosting India's price competitiveness," said Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). "While Oman is a relatively smaller market, the pact deepens Indian firms' role in Omani logistics and supply chains and supports broader strategy on energy, services and regional connectivity."

Under the recently concluded FTA, New Zealand has committed to investing $20 billion in India over 15 years, strengthening long-term economic and strategic cooperation. Sectors hit hardest by US tariffs—such as textiles, apparel and marine products—are expected to gain easier market access in New Zealand. For instance, according to GTRI data, India's global exports of women's woven apparel stand at $3 billion. New Zealand imports $179 million worth of such apparel, but India currently supplies just $9.8 million, indicating significant untapped potential.

The year saw the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the EFTA states come into effect on October 1, marking a major step in deepening economic ties.

Navi Mumbai airport begins ops, handles 4,000 passengers

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

NAVI Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) on Thursday commenced airside operations with the arrival of its first commercial flight. The inaugural arrival, IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru, touched down at 08:00 hrs and was welcomed with the traditional water salute. This was followed by the airport's first departure, an IndiGo flight 6E882 to Hyderabad, which took off at 08:40 hrs, completing NMIA's inaugural arrival and departure cycle.

On the very first day of operations, airlines including IndiGo, Akasa Air, Air India Express and Star Air operated scheduled passenger flights to and from NMIA. Over 4,000 passengers were handled on day one as about 35 flights took off/landed at the new airport. Formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8, 2025, NMIA is expected to ease congestion at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), located in the heart of the financial capital Mumbai.

The airport, second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), is a 74:26 joint venture between Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO). With a planned capacity of 90 million passengers and 3.2 million tonnes of cargo per annum, NMIA will commence Phase 1 operations with a capacity of 20 million passengers and 0.5 million tonnes of cargo per annum.

Initially, IndiGo will be connecting NMIA to over 10 key destinations across the nation. These services will support the growth of this aviation gateway and complement Mumbai airport

Vinay Malhotra, global sales head, IndiGo

Chairman of Adani Group - Gautam Adani - welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight. The launch concluded with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Bana Singh and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, followed by the national anthem. Jeet Adani, Director, AAHL, said that NMIA establishes a resilient multi-airport system for the MMR, boosting capacity, enhancing passenger experience and future-proofing the region's aviation growth.

IndiGo's initial services from NMIA connect to the 13 destinations: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Nagpur, Goa (Mopa), Jaipur, Chennai, Coimbatore and Vadodara. Vinay Malhotra, global sales head, IndiGo, said, "Initially, IndiGo will be connecting NMIA to over 10 key destinations across the nation. These newly launched services will support the growth of this brand-new aviation gateway and complement Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport."

Ola Electric secures ₹367 crore incentive under PLI auto scheme

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OLA Electric on Thursday said that it has received a sanction order from the Ministry of Heavy Industries for the release of incentives amounting to ₹366.78 crore under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components (PLI-Auto Scheme) for claims pertaining to FY25.

According to Ola Electric, the sanction pertains to the demand incentive for the determined sales value for FY25, and authorises a payment of ₹366.78 crore to be released through IFCI Limited, the designated financial institution for disbursement under the scheme. The incentive has been sanctioned in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions of the PLI-auto scheme, it said.

Ola Electric receiving incentive comes a week after founder Bhavish Aggarwal divested a 2.2% stake valued at more than ₹324 crore in the company. The selling by the promoter drove the company's share to an all-time low close of ₹31.46 on December 18. Since then, Ola Electric shares have recovered 12-13% as the company clarified that the transaction was undertaken to repay a promoter-level loan of ₹260 crore fully and to release all 3.93% shares previously pledged, thereby eliminating all promoter pledges.

An Ola Electric spokesperson said the sanction of ₹366.78 crore is a strong endorsement of Ola Electric's manufacturing capabilities and its commitment to building world-class EV technology in India. This incentive recognises its sustained efforts in scaling domestic production, deepening localisation, and driving innovation across electric mobility value chain, added the spokesperson. The scheme proposes financial incentives to support domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

Ola's sale in the Indian e-2W market has taken a big hit in 2025. According to VAHAN data, the Bengaluru-based company sold 8,400 electric vehicles in November 2025, a massive decline of 71% year-on-year. This was also Ola's lowest monthly sales in more than 3 years.

UPTREND

Mkt valuations are not too high: Motilal Oswal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equities may not repeat the underperformce of 2025 in the next calendar year supported by better earnings prospects, supportive domestic macros, and improved geopolitical situation, a report by brokerage firm Motilal Oswal says. According to the report, valuations are not too high and the fear of slower nominal GDP growth adversely impacting corporate earnings is overblown.

It says India could also benefit from the abatement of overexuberance of global AI stocks, which can prompt country rotation towards India within FII portfolios. A lower USD-INR level may further offer an attractive entry point. "Valuations, particularly for large-caps, are not demanding (Nifty PE at 21.3x vs. LT average of 20.8x), while earnings appear well poised to deliver mid-teens growth over FY27," it says in its report.

The report highlights a significant shift in momentum. For the three months ending with the Q2FY26 earnings season, the aggregate FY26 profit after tax (PAT) estimates for the universe of stocks it tracks were raised by 2%. This follows a long period of contraction where estimates were slashed by as much as 6% earlier in the year. Mid-caps led the charge with the highest upgrades at 3.1%, followed by large-caps, which showed steady strength with upgrades of nearly 2%.

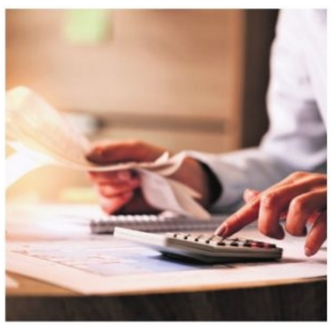
ICAI for joint taxation scheme for couples

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has proposed introduction of an optional joint taxation scheme for married couples, as part of its pre-Budget consultation with the finance ministry, arguing that the move would better reflect household realities and curb income-splitting practices.

In its representation, ICAI said under the existing Income-tax framework, individuals are taxed separately, with each taxpayer entitled to a basic exemption limit of ₹4 lakh under the default tax regime and ₹2.5 lakh under the optional regime. While this structure works well for dual-income households, a large section of Indian families continue to rely on a single earning member.

"This creates an incentive to artificially transfer income to other family members to utilise individual exemption limits," ICAI said, adding that an optional joint taxation framework could address this distortion.



Under the proposed scheme, married couples would be allowed to file a joint return and opt for joint taxation, provided both have valid Permanent Account Numbers (PANs). Taxpayers would retain the choice to continue under the current individual taxation system or switch to the joint scheme.

ICAI has suggested that under joint taxation, the basic exemption threshold should be doubled and tax slabs broadened proportionately to reflect combined household income. As per the slab structure proposed by the institute, income up to ₹8 lakh would be tax-free, with progressively higher slabs culminating in a 30% tax rate for income above ₹48 lakh.

Proposes surcharge threshold at ₹1.5 crore

ICAI has proposed raising the surcharge threshold under default regime to ₹75 lakh. Under the scheme, surcharge threshold could be raised to ₹1.5 cr, with graded surcharge rates thereafter. It also recommended that in cases where both spouses are salaried employees, standard deductions should be available separately

The institute stated that similar taxation models are already operational in developed economies such as the US. ICAI has flagged concerns over the surcharge structure under the default tax regime. It said while tax rates have been rationalised, the surcharge threshold for individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) continues to remain at ₹50 lakh of total income. Since default regime allows fewer deductions, total income tends to be higher, triggering surcharge even when tax liability is lower.

ICAI has proposed raising the surcharge threshold under the default regime to at least ₹75 lakh. Under the joint taxation scheme, the surcharge threshold could be increased to ₹1.5 crore, with graded surcharge rates thereafter. The institute also recommended that in cases where both spouses are salaried employees, standard deductions should be available separately, and thresholds for alternate minimum tax should be proportionately enhanced.

ICAI said joint taxation would be a socially equitable reform, recognising the economic contribution of non-earning spouses as homemakers, while also boosting household purchasing power, domestic consumption and long-term savings.

EXPRESS READ

Zepto to file DRHP, targets 2026 listing

NEW DELHI: Quick commerce unicorn Zepto is set to pre-file its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Sebi on Friday through a confidential route as it targets a stock market listing next year, according to a PTI report. The move positions Zepto to become one of the youngest start-ups to list on Indian stock exchanges. If the listing goes through, Zepto will join its rivals Zomato and Swiggy. *ENS*

Exports to grow by 3% to $850 bn in FY26: GTRI

NEW DELHI: India's goods and services exports are likely to grow by 3 per cent to $850 billion in 2025-26, think tank GTRI said on Thursday. In 2024-25, overall exports touched $825 billion ($438 billion in merchandise and $387 billion in services). Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the country's exports in 2026 will face a far tougher global trade environment than it has seen in years. *ENS*

CII OUTLINES FISCAL STRATEGY FOR MACRO ECONOMIC STABILITY

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has outlined a four-point fiscal strategy focusing on debt sustainability, fiscal transparency, revenue mobilisation and expenditure efficiency, calling on the government to sustain macroeconomic stability while supporting long-term growth in the forthcoming Union Budget.

In a pre-Budget representation released on Wednesday, CII said India is currently witnessing a rare Goldilocks phase, marked by strong economic growth, alongside contained inflation. Real GDP growth stood at 8% in the first half of FY26, while price pressures have remained well anchored, reflecting prudent fiscal and monetary management. "India has achieved a rare convergence of high growth, low inflation and improving fiscal indicators. The next Union Budget must continue this momentum through disciplined fiscal management and deeper institutional reforms," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

At the core of CII's proposal is adherence to the government's debt glide path, which targets a public debt-to-GDP ratio of 50±1% by FY31. The industry body said maintaining central government debt at about 54.5% of GDP and the fiscal deficit at 4.2% of GDP by FY27 would help preserve macroeconomic credibility while supporting growth. However, it cautioned that fiscal consolidation must extend beyond the Centre to states and urban local bodies (ULBs), whose finances influence overall debt dynamics.

Fiscal Performance Index

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) proposed creation of a Fiscal Performance Index to assess quality of public finances across the Centre and States, with performance-linked fiscal transfers to incentivise reforms.

To enhance predictability and institutional credibility, CII has recommended reviving medium-term fiscal framework with a rolling three-to-five-year road map covering revenues, expenditure and debt. It proposed the creation of a Fiscal Performance Index to assess the quality of public finances across the Centre and States, with performance-linked fiscal transfers to incentivise reforms.

Samsung rules out India listing, to bet on interest-free EMIs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EVEN as one of its closest competitors LG Electronics India got listed in October this year, Samsung Electronics has ruled out listing its India business for now, saying it will instead focus on accelerating artificial intelligence adoption across its products and expanding its consumer finance arm to drive sales in one of the most important growth markets.

In an interview to PTI, President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia JB Park said the South Korean giant is looking to deepen its manufacturing footprint in India and has applied under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for components to manufacture mobile phone displays in India.

Samsung runs its largest smartphone manufacturing facility in the world in Noida, which has evolved into a key export hub in recent years.

To expand interest-free EMIs to home appliances

JB Park, President and chief executive officer of Samsung Southwest Asia, said Samsung is looking to expand its interest-free finance scheme to home appliances. It currently sells smartphones on interest-free EMIs, and the same is being expanded to televisions and washing machines

When asked about any possibility of an IPO, Park said: "No, we do not have any such plans as of now". While other South Korean peers like Hyundai Motor India and LG Electronics have tapped public markets to raise capital and strengthen their local footprint, Samsung places a preference on internal growth over market-funded expansion. The strategy reflects a dual aim, leveraging AI to differentiate products in a crowded consumer electronics market while using financing solutions to boost sales amid slowing global demand.

Park said Samsung would be adequately funded through its capital requirement for investment in growth opportunities. Besides IPO, there are different means to acquire capital such as institutional borrowings or through corporate bonds, among others. "So, there are multiple options that you can get the working capital in place. So, an IPO is not the plan for Samsung," he said.

By prioritising operational expansion over a public listing, Samsung is signalling confidence in long-term growth potential in India while maintaining tighter control over its strategic and financial direction. Park said Samsung is looking to expand its interest-free finance scheme to home appliances. It currently sells smartphones on interest-free EMIs, and the same is being expanded to televisions and washing machines. "Over 40% of smartphones have been sold on Finance + (Samsung EMI scheme)," he said. Park said AI will be a cornerstone for future Samsung products.

Some of these will be showcased at the CES 2026, the world's largest consumer electronics and IT exhibition, in Las Vegas next month.

He said the company's AI appliances are entering a "new turning point", delivering smarter, more personalised experiences that enhance everyday living.

ISL clubs seek clarity on league structure from AIFF

The Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Thursday shot off a letter to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), seeking clarity from the apex body on its immediate as well as long-term plans for the country's top domestic competition. The letter was addressed to the AIFF on behalf of the ISL clubs through Mohun Bagan Super Giant CEO Vinay Chopra.

Kohli may play for Delhi in New Year too

Mumbai's game vs Uttarakhand is likely to be Sharma's last in Vijay Hazare Trophy

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THEIR return to the domestic circuit certainly adds value and star power to the tournaments which otherwise are played with little or no public presence despite them being a regular part of BCCI's annual calendar. It was no different when Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli turned up for Mumbai and Delhi respectively on the opening day of the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Wednesday. While more than 20,000 watched Sharma slamming a century at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Kohli's day out did not have any attendance as the BCCI doesn't allow spectators inside their Centre of Excellence Grounds on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Once again the duo will take the field on Friday with Mumbai taking on Uttarakhand and Delhi playing against Gujarat. The Mumbai's clash in all likelihood will be Rohit Sharma's last appearance in the domestic meet but Kohli is expected to be back with the Delhi team after their second match against Gujarat. "At least three Vijay Hazare matches Kohli will play," Rohan Jaitley, president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), told this daily. The third match, however, will not be this year. "Post New Year, he is expected to feature in a match. So far only three," added Jaitley. Delhi will play Services, Railways and Haryana on January 3, 6 and 8 respectively before the quarterfinals scheduled on January 12 and 13. The DDCA president, however, didn't specify which match Kohli will play and said it will be communicated soon.

SELECT FIXTURES

GROUP A | Ahmedabad: Madhya Pradesh vs Tamil Nadu; Karnataka vs Kerala; Jharkhand vs Rajasthan

GROUP B | Rajkot: Hyderabad vs Vidarbha; Chandigarh vs Uttar Pradesh

GROUP C| Jaipur: Mumbai vs Uttarakhand; Chhattisgarh vs Punjab

GROUP D| Alur: Andhra vs Railways; Odisha vs Services; Delhi vs Gujarat (CoE Ground 1, Bengaluru)

Interestingly, Delhi's remaining three games are scheduled to be held in Bengaluru — the first and last most probably at the CoE Ground as the M Chinnaswamy Stadium has been denied permission to host matches and one in Alur. With Kohli in attendance, it would not be a surprise if that match is also moved to the CoE Ground for security reasons.

Mumbai, meanwhile, will see a few more India players joining their ranks even as Sharma is unlikely to be in the fold. "So far, Rohit is supposed to play only two matches," Dr Unmesh Khanvilkar, secretary of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), said. It was learnt that the decision to play only a couple of matches was taken after consulting BCCI and Rohit's workload management in mind. He and Kohli then would return to the India fold for the three-match ODI series against New Zealand beginning in Vadodara on January 11. India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shivam Dube are expected to join Mumbai adding more firepower to their batting line-up. Jaiswal might join the squad this year while Surya and Dube could be in the team for the last two matches before the knockouts. After Uttarakhand, Mumbai will be up against Chhattisgarh and Goa on December 29 and 31. They will then play Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab on January 3, 6 and 8, respectively.

Chance for Kaur & Co to explore and seal series

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THREE versus Sri Lanka. Three in Australia and three in England. That is how India women's schedule looks in the lead up to the T20 World Cup at the moment. Unless the postponed Bangladesh tour gets reinstated, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side have as many as nine T20Is to figure out their best possible combinations before their opening game against Pakistan in Edgbaston on June 14.

It is understandable that they do a fair bit of experimentation in the ongoing Sri Lanka series as well as in Australia for the same reason. Although it is a fairly settled squad where at least 12 players pick themselves, figuring out the last three and having back ups in case of any last-minute injuries is what India would be working on. It is one of the reasons why they have called up a 17-year-old G Kamalini. The last thing India would want is to be left stranded as they were when Yastika Bhatia was ruled out of the home ODI World Cup.

There is no doubt at the moment about India's top six. When it comes to all-rounders, pace attack and spinners, India continuously test the waters. Which is why Vaishanvi Sharma is in the mix despite NR Sree Charani already being there. Arundhati Reddy is a regular and Kranti Gaud's rise meant Renuka Singh is not playing every game. For head coach Amol Muzumdar, it is all a part of their preparation for the World Cup.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (L) and coach Amol Muzumdar | KCA

"We tried to be as settled as possible during the ODI World Cup as well. Six months down the line there is a T20 World Cup and we are very well aware of certain things, what we need to do and in what direction we want to take this T20 side," Muzumdar said on the eve of the third T20I against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram. "Trying out a lot of stuff, making sure that we are well and truly settled before the World Cup."

"We consistently talk about improving in all the three facets of the game. In fact, there is a fourth one now, which is fitness. Nothing in particular about one facet of the game. We are a progressive side, constantly we are trying to improve day by day," he said. What India will also have to manage is the workload of their pacers as they will be playing the Women's Premier League, then the multi-format series in Australia, which includes a Test match in Perth before the England tour. There, too, they will play a Test at Lord's shortly after the T20 World Cup. As things stand, India have three pacers in the squad, their other regular pace-bowling all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar is in BCCI CoE after a long injury lay-off but is expected to make a comeback in WPL for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. And if she is fit, she is likely to make the trip Down Under.

Which is why, the team management is willing to experiment and while doing enough things right to keep winning. Even in the ongoing series, they chased twice and would want to bat first at some point, but the first priority remains winning.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Eyeing third victory

Having won the first two T20Is, India will want to seal the five-match series on Friday. A look...

EYES ON MANDHANA

She has had starts on both occasions, but Smriti Mandhana is due for a big knock. After Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma, it is the vice-captain's turn to put on a show and help India win the series.

SEARCHING FOR INTENT

Sri Lanka have not been able to sustain intent through the innings so far. They have had no luck with toss either. The sooner they find the solution, the better it is for Chamari Athapaththu and her team.

DEBUT FOR KAMALINI?

While she was called up as a back-up keeper, the team management will want to have a look at G Kamalini and what she brings to the table. Even more so if she is in scheme of things for the T20 World Cup.

India vs Sri Lanka, Thiruvananthapuram

Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7 PM

Maintaining belief key: Harmanpreet

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

AFTER an injury-plagued year, India senior hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh is eager to gain momentum in the lead-up to what he calls a "packed year."

In 2026, India will be taking part in the Asian Games and the FIH Hockey World Cup. Before that, they also have the crucial Pro League leg at home, Australia and Europe. There, India will have an opportunity to directly qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Harmanpreet had suffered an ankle injury in the previous edition of Hockey India League earlier this year, followed by a wrist injury during the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro league in February and a damaged finger tissue midway through the European leg of the Pro League in June. That finger injury had proven to be a mighty blow for India, as they finished eighth in the nine-team tournament. He turned the tide later by leading the team to Asia Cup victory in Rajgir. In the process, India secured a berth in the World Cup in Belgium and Netherlands. Then he took part in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, where the team lost in the final to Belgium, before rounding his year off in a three-match tour in South Africa. The 29-year-old said that the players will take next year's schedule step by step, beginning with the Hockey India League from January 3.

Harmanpreet Singh (L) during the event on Wednesday

"We will get a lot of help in the league because we are playing with overseas players. After that, the Pro league (from February) is also very important for us. If we win it, we will qualify directly for the Olympics. There is little time but the team's goal is to do well in the World Cup and in the Asian Games," he said on the sidelines of JSW Soorma Hockey Club's jersey unveiling event here on Wednesday. With the developmental squads racking up good results, a change in the composition of the squad may happen. "The workload is such that the World Cup and Asian Games are important for us. But in the Pro League, if there are any changes, we can do it. But I think we have to sit with the coach first and we need to discuss," he explained.

Harmanpreet felt it will be vital for the Craig Fulton-coach team to maintain belief. "All the games we have lost were very close games. Rest, mostly we have won with one goal. The belief to win can come to us at any time, so we have to be strong. We know that we are good and we have to stick to it."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

No voting rights for clubs in EFI governance: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN an interesting judgement, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday said that the clubs affiliated with the Equestrian Federation of India do not have voting rights. The division bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar said that this is accordance with the the Sports Code that doesn't give voting rights to clubs or individual members.

The division bench also pointed out that the single judge had listed in his findings about how, despite 29 state and union territory units, the EFI had "revoked membership of several State Associations, thereby consolidating control with the various units of the Indian Army". The judgement also said that the single judge pointed out, "The appointed Observer submitted a report noting that clubs affiliated with various Indian Army Corps were exercising effective control over the EFI, without making any commensurate contribution towards the development and promotion of the sport".

The division bench, therefore felt, "The scheme embodied in the Sports Code thus delineates, in unequivocal terms, the category of entities that are empowered to participate in the decision-making process of an NSF. In light of this explicit framework, it necessarily follows that a club does not possess any statutory or legal entitlement to interfere with, participate in, or seek to influence the governance and administration of the sport at the national level."

The regulatory intent of the Sports Code is to ensure that the collective voice of the recognised SAs and UTAs, being representative bodies with defined responsibilities, is not diluted or undermined by entities that do not form part of the mandatory governance structure of an NSF," the judgement said.Since EFI had granted clubs and institution membership with voting rights, the state associations have been protesting. The Sports Code, however, doesn't give them voting rights.

EXPRESS READ

Badminton nat'ls: Shruti, Tanvi advance

VIJAYAWADA: Experienced shuttler Shruti Mundada and rising star Tanvi Patri beat higher-ranked rivals to reach the women's singles pre-quarterfinals in the senior national badminton meet here. Shruti packed off seventh seed Jiya Rawat 21-14, 21-9 while Tanvi beat eighth seed Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-19. Top seed Unnati Hooda, second seed Anupama Upadhyaya and third seed Anmol Kharb also advanced.

Joshi and Ahlawat take opening day honours

JAMSHEDPUR: Khalin Joshi and Veer Ahlawat took the opening day honours at the TATA Open, the PGTI's season-finale, by returning identical cards of seven-under 63, here. In round one, one half of the field played its 18 holes at Beldih Golf Club while the other half of the field played its 18 holes at the Golmuri Golf Club. In round two, both halves of the field will switch venues. Khalin and Veer shot scores of seven-under 63.

United face Newcastle test sans Fernandes

MANCHESTER: Bruno Fernandes has been ever-present during Manchester United's recent lean years. But the Portugal midfielder, who suffered an injury last week, will be out of United's clash against Newcastle at Old Trafford on Friday. **Select fixtures: Saturday:** Man United vs Newcastle (1:30 am IST Friday night); Forest vs Man City (6pm); Liverpool vs Wolves (8:30pm); Arsenal vs Brighton (8:30pm); Chelea vs Villa (11pm).

Aus to go with all-pace attack for fourth Test

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

AUSTRALIA will take an all-pace attack into the fourth Ashes Test, skipper Steve Smith said Thursday, while Josh Inglis was dropped with selectors preferring Usman Khawaja.

The hosts head into the Boxing Day Test with an unassailable 3-0 lead over England, but are without pace spearhead Pat Cummins and veteran spinner Nathan Lyon. Cummins is being managed after his return in the third Adelaide Test after a lengthy lay off with a lower back injury and will play no further part in the Ashes. Lyon had surgery this week for a torn hamstring and faces a long recovery. Todd Murphy was called up as cover for Lyon, but Smith said they had opted for a pace attack given the "quite furry" surface at the MCG. "We're going to be playing four quicks and no spinner. (The pitch) has 10 millimetres of grass, quite furry, quite green," he said.

Diallo & Mahrez strike as Ivory Coast, Algeria win

AGENCIES @ Rabat

AMAD Diallo and Riyad Mahrez starred as defending champions Ivory Coast and former winners Algeria had contrasting victories when the first round of African Cup of Nations (AFCON) group matches concluded in Morocco.

Manchester United winger Diallo struck early in the second half with a close-range shot to give the Ivorians a hard-earned 1-0 Group F victory over Mozambique in wet Marrakesh. Earlier, Algeria cruised to a 3-0 Group E win over 10-man Sudan in Rabat with another winger, former Manchester City star Mahrez, becoming the third player to bag a brace at the tournament.

Ivory Coast's Amad Diallo (L) celebrates | AFP

RESULTS: Algeria 3-0 Sudan; Cameroon 1-0 Gabon; Ivory Coast 1-0 Mozambique. Friday's matches: Angola vs Zimbabwe (6pm); Egypt vs South Africa (8:30 pm); Zambia vs Comoros (11 pm); Morocco vs Mali (IST Saturday 1:30 am).

Elsewhere, an early Karl Etta Eyong goal gave Cameroon a tense 1-0 win over Gabon in Agadir and Burkina Faso scored twice deep in added time to beat Equatorial Guinea 2-1 in Casablanca. Ivory Coast, are aiming to become the first nation since Egypt in 2010 to successfully defend the premier African football title.

Defeat prolonged the Mozambican pursuit of an AFCON victory — they have drawn four matches and lost 12 since their 1986 debut. Winger Elias 'Domingues' Pelembe came off the Mozambique bench on 67 minutes at the age of 42, making him the second oldest player to compete at an AFCON after 44-year-old Egypt goalkeeper Essam El Hadary.

SA20

Chance for SA20 to define the South African summer this year?

GOMESH S @ Chennai

FOR the first time since their reinstatement 33 years ago, South Africa will not play international cricket on Boxing Day. Test matches on December 26 have been a long-standing tradition in countries like Australia and South Africa. The rainbow nation has played Tests, either at home or in Australia, on most occasions and some white-ball cricket sparsely on occasion. This summer, however, is different. This year the peak summer of South African cricket will be all about the premier T20 competition of the country — SA20 league.

When the tournament was started in 2023 by Cricket South Africa, it was perhaps their last attempt to have a successful T20 league like the IPL. It was a calculated gamble, but a well-planned out one. Three years on, it is clear that the tournament is here to stay in the South African calendar. Six teams, already established IPL franchises, T20 matches where people come around and enjoy the summer. Safe to say, SA20 has ticked a few boxes, and in the process have given the stage to up and coming talents in the country. In the last three years, Dewald Brevis, Kwena Maphaka, Lhuandre Pretorius, Rubin Hermann and Tristan Stubbs have become household names in South African cricket apart from the already established Faf du Plessis, David Miller, Kagiso Rabada and the rest. South African cricket has also flourished internationally in this period as the women's team played T20 World Cup and an ODI World Cup finals while the men's team played on T20 WC final and won the World Test Championship.

Captains of all clubs ahead of upcoming edition of SA20 league | SA20

SA20 league commissioner and former captain Graeme Smith credit the national team and the players for the international success. He also reiterates the goal of SA20 to build a larger pool of players who get a chance at the global level. "I think our role at SA20 from the beginning, we have always said that we want to put 50-60 players on the global map every year, expose them to the best possible cricket in front of big crowds, big production, and start to really help develop the player pool around the national teams," Smith said during a virtual interaction on JioStar Press Room ahead of SA20 Season 4 few days before the tournament began. One of things he has reiterated over the years is that SA20 aims to be the best league after IPL. "We have really worked hard to make sure that our window in now, December, but in general, January, February and we own it. I think seeing fans come back to the game in South Africa, big crowd is always a highlight for us. The main thing is to make sure we give the players and the teams the best platform to perform," he said.

With MI Cape Town taking on Durban Super Giants in the opening game, the next month will show whether the league is able to build on the success and the way forward. **Catch all the action from SA20 Season 4, December 26 2025 - January 25 2026, LIVE on JioHotstar and Star Sports Network**

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ಬಾಪೂಜಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ರಿ)

2ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪಿ.ಜೆ.ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577002

ಶಿವಗಣಾರಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ನುಡಿ ನಮನ

ಐವತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಲ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆಯ ಬಾಪೂಜಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಗೌರವ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸಿದ ಅಮೃತ ಪುರುಷರು, ಶತಮಾನ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠರು, ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ವೀರಶೈವ–ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಮಹಾಸಭಾದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಮಾಜಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಶಾಸಕರೂ ಆದ

ಲಂ. ಡಾ. ಶಾಮನೂರು ಶಿವಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಅವರು

ದಿ. 14.12.2025ರಂದು ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರನ್ನು ಅಗಲಿದ್ದು, ಅವರ **ಶಿವಗಣಾರಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ನುಡಿ ನಮನ** ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ದಿ. 26.12.2025ರ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.15ಕ್ಕೆ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಾವಣಗೆರೆಯ ಬಂಬೂಬಜಾರ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಕಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರ ರೈಸ್ ಮಿಲ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನೆರವೇರಲಿದ್ದು, ತಾವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲರು ಆಗಮಿಸಿ ಲಿಂಗೈಕ್ಯರ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಚಿರಶಾಂತಿ ಕೋರಲು ವಿನಂತಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಜಂಟಿ ಗೌರವ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಖಜಾಂಚಿ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, **ಬಾಪೂಜಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ**
ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಪೂಜಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಮನೂರು ಒಡೆತನದ ಸಮೂಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಂಗ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ನೌಕರ ವರ್ಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಭಾವಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೌರವ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಜಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವವರು

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಬಕ್ಕೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಬಕ್ಕೇಶ್, ಆಶಿಕ್, ಅಕ್ಷತಾ, ಅದಿತ್
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ರೇಖಾ ಗಣೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಗಣೇಶ್, ಅಭಿಜಿತ್, ಆಂಚಲ್, ಅಖಿಲಾ
ಡಾ॥ ಪ್ರಭಾ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ್, ಸಮರ್ಥ್, ಡಾ॥ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠಾ, ಶಿವ

ಪಂಚ ಪೀಠಾಧೀಶ್ವರರೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ನಾಡಿನ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಠಾಧೀಶರು, ಹರ, ಗುರು, ಚರ ಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳು ದಿವ್ಯ ಸಾನ್ನಿಧ್ಯ ವಹಿಸುವರು

ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ:
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಖರ್ಗೆ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಭಾರತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್

ಪುತ್ಥಳಿ ಅನಾವರಣ:
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಾಕ್ಷ್ಯಚಿತ್ರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ :
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಸಿ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ:
ನ್ಯಾ. ಶಿವರಾಜ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ್
ನಿವೃತ್ತ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು, ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ

–: ಸ್ವಾಗತ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಸ್ತಾವಿಕ ನುಡಿ :–

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ್
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಡಾ॥ ಪ್ರಭಾ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಂಸದರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಕಿರು ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡ
ಮಾಜಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಗಳು, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

–: ವಂದನಾರ್ಪಣೆ :–
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಗಣೇಶ್
ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಅ.ಭಾ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ. ಮಹಾಸಭಾ

ನುಡಿ ನಮನ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ
ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ವೇಣುಗೋಪಾಲ್
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಎಐಸಿಸಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟರ್
ಸಂಸದರು, ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರು, ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸಂಸದರು, ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ.ಸೋಮಣ್ಣ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರು, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಯು.ಟಿ.ಖಾದರ್
ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ರಣದೀಪ್ ಸುರ್ಜೆವಾಲಾ
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಎಐಸಿಸಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಈಶ್ವರ ಬಿ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ, ಸಚಿವರು
ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಅ.ಭಾ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ.ಮ

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಬಿ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ಸಚಿವರು
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ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಮಾಜಿ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ನಿಗಮ-ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಮಹಾಸಭಾದ ಮುಖಂಡರುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮುಖಂಡರು ನುಡಿನಮನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವರು.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ತಲುಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತಲುಪದೆ ಇದ್ದವರು ಇದನ್ನೇ ಆಹ್ವಾನವೆಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಆಗಮಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿ